The Irish Times.

AND DAILY ADVERTISER.

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DUBLIN, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1860. PRICE ONE PENNY.

Public Notices.

THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN.
Mr. Harris begs to announce that
Mr. and Mrs. CHARLES KEAN
will appear for One Night Only,
SATURDAY, DEC. 22nd, 1860,
In Shakspere's
HENRY VIII.
terminating with the fall of Wolsey
Cardinal Wolsey, ... Mr. CHAS. KEAN.
Queen Katherine, ... Mrs CHAS. KEAN.
to conclude with the Comedy of
THE WONDER.
Don Felix, ... Mr. CHAS. KEAN.
Donna Violante, ... Mrs. CHAS. KEAN.
The Performances to commence on this occasion at 7 o'clock.
Box Office open on Thursday, Dec. 20.

THE QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.
On this WEDNESDAY EVENING, 19th December, 1860,
Will be performed a Grand National Christmas Pantomime, written expressly for the Theatre, by John Huggins, Esq., entitled THE PENNY PUNCH-OWL AND THE THREE WISHES; or HARLEQUIN KING TINSY and the Fairy Knights of the Golden Time. New and Magnificent Machinery by Messrs. Johnston, Lee, Gilmore, and Anderson; Machinery by Messrs. Johnston, Lee, Gilmore, and Anderson; Properties by Mr. Woodyer and Assistants; the Comic Scenes by a Gentleman of Dublin, Mr. Wier, and Herr Nicolo Rossini; the Pantomime produced under the direction of Mr. H. Neale; the Pantomime produced under the direction of Mr. H. Neale; the Pantomime produced under the direction of Mr. H. Neale

BLACK VELVET, SEALSKIN, AND CLOTH MANTLES.
S. OLDHAM and Sons, 12, Westmoreland-street, solicit inspection of their present superb stock of above goods of Newest Parisian Shapes, at moderate prices.

CHRISTMAS, 1860.
To select useful presents for JUVENILE AMATEURS, use our new price list of Tool and Tool-chests, which may be had on application, Gratis, or Gratis and Postage free to any address.
BOOTH, BROTHERS,
63, UPPER STEPHEN-STREET.

In the matter of
CHARLES FRIBOHRN, deceased, the late Eminent Boot Maker,
17, UPPER ORMOND-QUAY.
The extensive Stock of BOOTS and SHOES selling at reduced prices, which affords a favourable opportunity for Gentlemen to supply themselves at Low Prices, as the Stock must be Sold without reserve, to close the Executors' accounts.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
WILLIAM ACHESON begs leave to inform his friends and patrons that his stock consists of an immense variety of Jewells ry, Gold and Silver Watches, Plate and Plated Ware, suitable for CHRISTMAS PRESENTS. Amongst the Jewellery may be seen fine Gold Bracelets, Brooches, Necklettes, Rings, &c., set with Diamonds, Emeralds, Rubies, and Opal, and every other gem now in estimation.
WILLIAM ACHESON AND CO.,
109, GRAFTON-STREET.
N.B.—Plate, &c., Lent on Hire.

IRISH BOG OAK ORNAMENTS AS CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
C. RANKIN begs to inform his patrons and the public that he keeps a select stock of the above Ornaments—Plain, also Mounted on Gold and Silver—which he will dispose of at moderate prices.
☞ PLEASE OBSERVE
C. RANKIN,
Bog Oak Carver, and Manufacturing Jeweller,
12, NASSAU-STREET,
(Corner of south Frederick-street),
DUBLIN.

THE REGISTERED "MARK" LOCKET AND BREAST-PIN.—The attention of the Brethren is invited to the above, admitted to be the prettiest Masonic Ornament ever introduced. Registered by THOMAS NORTH, Watchmaker, Goldsmith, and Masonic Jeweller, 40, GRAFTON-STREET.

THE VERY BEST SPOONS AND FORKS.
Twenty Years' experience has fully established that the Plated Forks and Spoons sold by
WATERHOUSE and COMPANY
possess all the elegance and durability of Solid Silver, and may be had at one-fourth its cost.
For detailed List of Prices, apply at the Manufacturers',
WATERHOUSE and COMPANY,
25, DAME-STREET.

ELEGANT PRESENTS
Two beautiful French Gilt Time Pieces, and One Marble do. with 14-day best finished movements striking the hours and quarters.
A Lady's first-class Gold Skeleton Lever Watch and fine Gold Chain.
A fine Gold Snake Bracelet Set with five large Emeralds.
A first-class Silver-plated Tea Set, of the newest design; also a Gentleman's Gold Hunting Watch, to be sold considerably less than the first cost price, at
J. JOHN PRESCOTT'S,
Watch and Clock Maker,
9, GREAT BRUNSWICK-STREET.

ELECTRO-PLATE, WITH 25 PER CENT. DISCOUNT OFF.
WILLIAM ACHESON begs leave to announce that he has several articles in the first quality Electro-Plate equal to new, which he can sell at a discount of 25 per cent.

	Former Price.	Present Price
A Set of Dish Covers,	12 Guineas	£10
Do. Coronet Dishes and Warmer,	30 gs.	£22
A Soup Tureen,	13 gs.	£10
A Coffee Tray,	13 gs.	£10
A Three-Arm Epergne,	25 gs.	£20
A Tea and Coffee Service,	18 gs.	£14
Four Sauce Tureens,	20 gs.	£15

An Inspection is respectfully solicited by
WILLIAM ACHESON AND CO.,
109, GRAFTON-STREET.
N.B.—Plate, &c., Lent on Hire.

IRISH BOG OAK ORNAMENTS.
Patronised by the Queen—SAMUELS, Working Jeweller and Manufacturer of Bog Oak Ornaments, 19, NASSAU-STREET, New Designs in Ecclesiastic, Heraldic, Pinchbeck, &c. Ornaments made to order, and Jewellery carefully repaired on the premises. Carver in Bog Oak, by appointment, to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. An assortment of Gold and Silver Watches, Gold Chains, Rings, Bracelets &c., at remarkably low prices.

GARIBALDI'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTS—
For Old and Young, and suited to all classes !!!
THE ROYAL LILLIPUTIAN ALARM CLOCK
only 5s. 6d. or 6s. 6d.!!!
A Written Engagement for Two Years.
J. DE SOLLA and SON,
The real and only genuine Manufacturers,
14, LEINSTER-STREET, DUBLIN.
Forwarded on receipt of Post Office Order.
Unrivalled by H.M. the Queen.
All kinds of Clocks and Watches cleaned and repaired.

NOTICE.
THOMAS A. POLSON,
CONFECTIONER AND PASTRY COOK,
Begs most respectfully to acquaint his numerous patrons and the public generally, that he has resumed business with a new and well-assorted Stock of French and German Confections, Bon-Bons, Syrups, Crystallised Fruits, &c.
T. A. P. is happy to state that he has retained the services of his former unrivalled staff of Cooks, Confectioners, and Waiters. All orders for the furnishing of Dejeuners, Dinners, and Ball Suppers, will receive his best personal attention.
☞ Christmas Cakes and New Year's Gifts in preparation. Country orders attended to.
17, LEINSTER-STREET, MERRION-SQUARE,
Dublin, December 11th, 1860.

THE TEA ESTABLISHMENT,
5, LOWER SACKVILLE-STREET.
THE NEW SEASON'S TEA.
The first import of the New Season's Tea has arrived in London. Having made a selection of the finest qualities, we beg to direct special attention to our present prices, as under,
We recommend
Our New Season's Black-leaf Congou, .. 3s 0d per lb.
Strong Black Congou .. 3s 4d "
Do Full Strong Congou .. 3s 8d "
Do Finest Pekoe Congou .. 4s 0d "
Do Imperial Lapsang Souchong .. 4s 4d "
☞ Two pence per lb allowed to cash purchasers of five parcels of tea and upwards.

COFFEE.
Fine Mocha and Jamaica .. 1s 8d per lb.
The favourite marks of Jamaica and East India Coffee 1s 10d "
Chocolate, Cocoa, Shell Cocoa, &c.
THE NEW IRISH TEA COMPANY,
5, LOWER SACKVILLE-STREET.
N.B.—Daily deliveries to all the Suburbs.—Orders punctually attended to.

WINES.
WILLIAM RUSSELL AND CO.,
Direct Wine and Spirit Importers,
5, Lower Sackville-street.

Excellent Dinner Sherry	22s	0d	24s 0d
Good Sherry	26s	0d	28s 0d
Superior Pale or Golden	30s	0d	32s 0d
Do. very Superior, recommended	36s	0d	38s 0d
Old Port, Dry or Bottled	28s	0d	30s 0d
Old Crusted Port	36s	0d	40s 0d
Do. Four Years in Bottle			42s 0d

Madeira, Champagne, and Light Summer Wines at proportionately reduced prices.
☞ Two Shillings per dozen allowed to cash purchasers of six dozen of Wine.

HOME AND FOREIGN SPIRITS.
WILLIAM RUSSELL AND CO.
Recommend their very old Whiskey, in fresh Sherry Casks, distilled by J. JAMESON, and H. Roe and Sons,

Two Years Old	13s	4d
Three do do	14s	8d
Four do do	16s	0d

Sixpence per Gallon allowed to cash purchasers of Five Gallons and upwards.
Martell's Finest Old Cognac Brandy, Holland's Geneva, Old Jamaica Rum, &c.

	Quarts.	Pints.
Bass' Ale in prime order	3s 0d	1s 6d
Drogheda Ale do	4s 0d	2s 0d
Guinness' XX Porter	3s 10d	2s 0d

5, LOWER SACKVILLE-STREET,
(Near Carlisle Bridge.

ALEXANDER FINDLATER AND CO., GENERAL GROCERS, WINE, AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
Are now fully supplied with their Christmas Stock of Fruit, consisting of
Layer Raisins, in whole, half, and quarter boxes.
Sultana and Valencia Raisins.
Essex Figs, in boxes, various sizes.
Vostizza Currants.
Jordan, Valencia, Bitter, and Shell Almonds.
Citron Lemon and Orange Peels.
French Plums in Bottles.
Preserved Ginger, &c., &c.
The quality and prices of the above deserve attention.
Our priced Catalogue of General Groceries, Wines, &c., forwarded Post free, on application.

26, UPPER SACKVILLE-STREET,	
47, SOUTH GREAT GEORGE'S-STREET,	Dublin;
158, NORTH KING-STREET,	
82, LOWER GEORGE'S-STREET, KINGSTOWN;	
S. FINDLATER AND CO.,	
9, RATHMINES-TERRACE.	

THE BEST AND CHEAPEST TEAS AND COFFEES IN IRELAND
Are to be had at the
NEW TEA ESTABLISHMENT,
14, LOWER SACKVILLE-STREET,
(Nearly opposite the General Post Office.)
OLDHAM, BROTHERS,
TEAMEN, COFFEE ROASTERS, AND SUGAR IMPORTERS.

IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS TO ROMAN CATHOLICS.
Roman Catholics, Priests and People! come to the debate in the Rhamble-street Meeting, on This (Wednesday) Evening, December 19, 1860, at Half-past seven o'clock,
President—Mr. Jas. Hotston.
Subject: "The True Immaculate Conception and the False."
Was not Christ Immaculate in His conception because of the Holy Ghost? "And therefore also the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."—St. Luke, i. 35, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Did not Christ die to take away our sins, being himself without sin?—one tempted in all things like as we are, without sin."?—Heb. iv. 15, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Is not Christ alone said to have no sin? "And you know that he appeared to take away our sins; and in Him there is no sin."—1 John, iii. 5. See also 1 Pet. ii. 22; Heb. vii. 26, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Is it not Christ himself that crushed the head of the serpent (Genesis, iii. 15), according to St. Paul, who writes, that "through death he destroyed him who had the empire of death, that is to say the Devil"?—Heb. ii. 14, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Christ is described as "chosen out of thousands," and all (altogether) lovely."—Canticles, v. 10, 16.
Christ is "set on the right hand of the throne of the majesty in the heavens."—Heb. viii. 1.
"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, that he might redeem them that are under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."—Gal. iv. 4, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Does not Mr. Milner say, "The Church does not decide the controversy concerning the conception of the Blessed Virgin, and other disputed points, because she sees nothing absolutely clear and certain concerning them, either in the written or unwritten Word; and, therefore, leaves her children to form their own opinions concerning them."—End of Letter xii., p. 169.
Roman Catholic Friends, come and hear; bring your Bibles.
If Mary is "blessed" and "fair," and "without spot," (i.e only what every believer is in Christ Jesus—Cant. iv. 7, compared with Eph. v. 27, Col. ii. 10, 2 Cor. v. 21.
The last record of Mary is, that she was "persevering" in prayer with the (other) women.—Acts, i. 14, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
"Behold a Virgin shall be with child, and bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."—St. Matt. i. 23, Dr. Cullen's Bible.
Did not Pope Pius IX. decree the new dogma of the immaculate Conception of the blessed Virgin Mary, on the 8th December, 1854? How did the Pope know what to decree? Was he personally infallible or inspired? How did the Bishops know what advice to give the Pope on that subject? Were they individually infallible and inspired?

THE TOILET.—Combs, Brushes, Sponges, and all other Toil et Requisites, of first-class quality, in large variety, at
J. and H. TRAYNOR'S
Old-Established Warehouse,
90, SOUTH GEORGE'S-STREET.
Only manufacturer of the celebrated Wild Boar Hair Brushes, 10s per pair.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.
OPENING OF AUSTIN'S NEW DRESSING CASE MANUFACTORY AND FANCY WAREHOUSE,
33, WESTMORELAND STREET,
(Opposite the Bank of Ireland.)
These Extensive Premises are now
Open for business
With a large and magnificent assortment of
Ladies and Gentlemen's Dressing Cases,
Writing Desks,
Dispatch Boxes,
Work Boxes,
Foreign Fancy Goods,
&c., &c., &c.

CHRISTMAS NOTICE.—JOHN MAGUIRE, Ironmonger, 10, DAWSON-STREET, begs to inform his kind Customers and the Public that his Establishment will be closed on Christmas Eve, in accordance with the arrangement of his Trade.
JOHN MAGUIRE respectfully solicits his Customers to make their purchases on the previous Saturday, or their written order will have prompt attention.

ESTABLISHED BY HAYDEN AND PALMER.
GENERAL MEDICAL PRACTICE.
DR. PALMER,
32, MERRION-SQUARE NORTH.
(Corner of Holles-street,)
Physician and Surgeon of twenty-five years' practical experience, Medical Doctor and Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Accoucheur to the Rotundo Lying-in-Hospital, late Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, Dissections, and Demonstrations at the Great-street School of Medicine.
Hours at Home—9 to 11 Morning, 1 to 4 Midday.
Sundays, from 9 to 11.
Evenings—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, 7 to 9 o'clock.
Rules—Medical or Surgical Advice and Medicine (Compounded by his Apothecary), Five Shillings, at Dr. P.'s or the Patient's Residence; consultation by letter, 10s. Medicine included.

MONEY MARKET AND COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

[WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR THE IRISH TIMES.]

Dublin, Tuesday Evening.

The several causes to which we referred in our previous report continue to impart a good tone to the London Stock market; the slightly reduced rates which were submitted to yesterday evening being fully realised this morning, and firmly upheld during the day. Additional strength was likewise imparted to the market here. Consols were again done at 93, and New 3 per Cents. were a shade higher than yesterday. An average amount of business was effected, and much firmness prevailed.

No dealings are recorded in Debentures.

Only one Banking Security was negociated—viz. National Bank Shares, in which an improvement of one-eighth appeared to have been steadily maintained; the quotation being for the account only. Hibernians were offered for sale, as were also Royals.

In Steampacket Shares, the only material alteration occurred in Dundalk Steam, which have been on sale for some days, and to-day fell back one half; the market being tolerably steady at the reduced quotation. British and Irish produced par, their former value. Dublin and Liverpool Shipbuilders likewise passed hands at their previous price (£54½), and left off steadily. Atlantic continued in request at £3 12s 6d; there being sellers at £3 17s 6d. The several issues of the City of Dublin Steam Company were again offered for sale.

In Mining Shares—The chief feature to be observed was a fresh advance of 10s, which took place in Wicklow Copper, more being still required at the higher price (£74½). Carysforts, which have not been dealt in for some time, were exchanged at a fractional reduction and closed weakly. Connorrees manifested a very steady appearance, and were rather largely negociated at a slight advance. There were offers to dispose of General Mines at the last price, buyers holding out for an abatement of one-eighth. Yesterday's quotation was ineffectually tendered for Mining Company of Ireland, an advance of 5s being demanded.

In Miscellaneous—Alliance and Consumers' Gas steadily supported the enhanced rates of yesterday; there being sellers, however, at the close of business, as previously. National Insurance Shares realised an improvement of one-quarter. Grand Canal Stock was inquired for; sellers requiring a rise.

In Original and Railway Securities, Dublin and Belfast Junctions, and Dublin and Drogheda (£75), were both operated in at an improvement of three-eighths, respectively; of the former there remained buyers; the latter appeared steady. Drogheda Third Shares were also negociated, the preceding quotations being well sustained. Dublin and Wexfords were without change and still in request at the price (£5). Great Southern Stock was not dealt in; sellers requiring an advance of one-eighth per cent. There were offers to buy Midland Great Westerns, but no operations were entered into. Waterfords and Limericks still continue in request at the previous price; as also Cork and Bandons.

In Railway Preference, Cork and Bandon six per cents were a trifle higher, but still offering; buyers at is 3d lower, Great Southern four per cent. Stock receded fractionally, but manifested a steady appearance towards the close.

DUBLIN STOCK AND SHARE LIST—Dec. 18.

	GOVERNMENT FUNDS.		
3 per Cent. Consols	..	..	93
Ditto for new account, 8th January	..	..	93
New 3 per Cent. Stock	..	..	92½ ¼
Ditto for account, 8th January			92½
	LOCAL DEBENTURES.		
City Debentures, 4 per cent.	..	..	—
Ditto deferred ditto	..	..	82
	BANKS.		
National	..	..	63½
Hibernian	..	..	37½ x d
	STEAM.		
British and Irish	..	..	[50
Dundalk (Limited)	..	..	9
Dublin and Liverpool Steam Ship Building,	..	..	54½
	MINES.		
General Mining Company (Limited)	..	..	2½
Mining Company of Ireland,	..	..	—
Wicklow (Limited)	..	..	70s 6d
Connorree (Limited)	..	..	5s 6d
Wicklow Copper (Limited)	..	..	74 74½
	MISCELLANEOUS.		
Alliance and Consumers' Gas	..	..	10
National Insurance	..	..	35
	RAILWAYS.		
Cork and Bandon	..	..	16½
Dublin and Drogheda	..	..	74½
Ditto, Thirds	..	..	2½
Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford	..	..	5
Dublin and Belfast Junction	..	..	43
	RAILWAY PREFERENCE.		
Cork and Bandon 5½ per cent. perpetual (eighths)	..	..	—
Ditto ditto 6 per cent. (4 per cent. perpetual after '63	..	..	49
Portadown Dungannon &c. 6 per cent. preference 'till December 1868 afterwards 5 per cent.	..	..	—
Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford, 6 per cent. perpetual	..	..	12½
Great Southern and Western, 4 per cent. perpetual	..	..	93½ ¼

On Saturdays business commences at half-past twelve o'clock, and the stockbrokers' offices are closed at three o'clock.
The next account day for shares will be the 15th December 30s not to be furnished on or before the 14th.

PRICES OF IRISH STOCKS.

	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS	FRID.	SAT.
3 per cent. Consols	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ditto for Account	93	93	92½	92½		
3 per Cent. Reduced	..	..	..	..	..	..
New 3 per cent. Stock	92½	91½ ¼	91½ ¼	91½	91½ ¼	91½ ¼
Ditto for Account		92½				
Ditto for Account						

(BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.)

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE—DECEMBER 18.

	OPENING PRICES.					
Consols Money	..	..	..	..	..	shut
Account	..	..	..	..	..	93½ ¼
New Threes	..	..	..	..	..	92½ 92
	NOON PRICES.					
Consols Money	..	..	..	..	..	shut
Account	..	..	..	..	..	93½
New Threes	..	..	..	..	..	92½ 3
	1 P.M. PRICES.					
Consols Money	..	..	..	..	..	shut
Account	..	..	..	..	..	93½ ¼
New Threes	..	..	..	..	..	92½ 93
	2-15 P.M. PRICES.					
Consols Money	..	..	..	..	..	shut
Account	..	..	..	..	..	93½ ¼
New Threes	..	..	..	..	..	92½ 93
	CLOSING PRICES.					
Consols Money	..	..	..	..	..	shut
Account	..	..	..	..	..	93½
New Threes	..	..	..	..	..	92½ 93

BANK SUMMARY.—Exchequer Bills, 5 dis.; Eastern Counties, 35½; Caledonians, 89½ ½; Great Northern, 112; Great Western, 70½; Great Western of Canada, —; Great Southern and Western, —; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 121; London and North Western, 102½; Leeds Northern, 66½; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 53½ 54; Midland Great, 106; North Eastern, 87½ 88; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 105½; York and North Midland, 95½; London and South Western, 90½; Great Western, —; Chester and Holyhead, —; Ancoats, —; Orms, Others and A. 118; Grand Trunks, 26½; North British, 66½; Great Western, 74½ 75; Mexican, —; Turkish (new), —; Bank stock, 234½; Edinburgh and Glasgow, —; Turkish (old), —; Canadian Stock, —. Consols firm at 93½. Shares opened good, and are steady and firm in tone, at about opening rates. Sheffields continue in good demand at 54, buyers.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

(TIMES' CITY ARTICLE.)

Monday Evening.

The news of peace with China caused the Consols market to open with remarkable buoyancy, the first transactions being at an advance of three-eighth per cent. on the firm quotations of Saturday. In the afternoon this animation diminished, and a reaction of one-fourth per cent. ultimately took place. Some persons in London were disposed to distrust the China news, but they were a small minority; the source whence it was transmitted to the Foreign-office, being supposed to be unquestionable. The news from France of the abolition of the passport system, as regards British subjects also tender to increase the favourable feeling with which the market opened. In the general Discount market the demand has again been rather active, but at the Bank the applications were moderate. There were no bullion operations at the Bank to-day.

(DAILY NEWS' CITY ARTICLE.

Monday Evening.

The Funds opened at an advance of ¼ per cent., but a relapse took place, and the closing quotations were only ¼ per cent. above those of Saturday. In most of the other departments of the Stock Exchange the tendency of prices was upwards. The Discount market continues unusually easy for this time of the year; the best bills were taken to-day ¼ to ½ per cent. below the Bank minimum. At the Bank of England the amount of business was moderate.

ENGLISH FUNDS.

CITY, TUESDAY EVENING.—Funds, though quiet, are firmer. Prices quoted ¼ per cent. higher than at close yesterday. Principal business has been in British Railway Stocks, which remain firm.

FRENCH FUNDS.

PARIS, TUESDAY, 5-30 P.M.—The Bourse remains firmer. Rentes closed 68·85, or same as yesterday.

STATE OF THE MARKETS.

(WRITTEN SPECIALLY FOR THE IRISH TIMES.)

Dublin, Tuesday Evening.

The state of affairs in the Money market presented an improved appearance at the close of the past week. The figures in the return of the Bank of England, although in a measure expected, were regarded as satisfactory; considering the late bullion operations and the news from America and China produced on the whole a favourable feeling, the funds having advanced another ¼ per cent. towards the termination of business on Saturday. On yesterday business in Public Securities was considerably influenced by the accounts of the conclusion of peace with China, and the immediate effect was to cause a sudden rise of about ¼ per cent. in Consols. An intimation that the passport system in France had been abolished, as far as regarded England, also increased the animation apparent, but reaction afterwards set in, and the closing quotations was only ¼ per cent. over that of Saturday. The export of specie to America continues, but principally, it is supposed, on account of orders received direct, very little, if any, it is believed, being forwarded by speculators. Advices from Paris speak favourably of the subscriptions to the New Turkish Loan, but in London the most extreme apathy is manifested in regard to it, and the telegrams from Constantinople have not been considered altogether assuring in a political point of view.

In the London Discount market there has been a good general inquiry for money, and the rate out of doors seems to be about ¼ per cent. under the Bank minimum of 5 per cent.

The commercial advices from China and India are not very satisfactory, since lower prices are current for most descriptions of manufactured goods, and increased imports. It was thought, must further sensibly influence the markets. The Australian accounts do not furnish special features of interest. According to the monthly account of the Bank of France, trade has been inactive in that country, a decline of nearly £1,000,000 having taken place in the bills discounted. In England, additional failures are anticipated in connexion with the produce department, which has been lately very dull, but business in other respects considered sound, and in Ireland satisfactory evidence continues to be afforded of the general soundness of trade. Respecting the manufacturing markets, the American excitement has injuriously affected the demand for linens in the North of Ireland from the other side of the Atlantic, but trade has shown an improving appearance, and a good business, especially in brown goods, is expected to be done with France. As regards the English cotton markets, the accounts received are much the same in their general tenour as those of the previous week, there being a want of animation in nearly every branch of industry, owing mainly to the approaching close of the year. In those few localities, however, engaged in the production of winter fabrics, there is a steady trade. From Birmingham, Bradford, and Halifax, the accounts speak of a general dulness in almost every department, though in the first-named town some Government orders recently received have partially relieved the want of activity. At Huddersfield and Leeds there has been a rather good attendance of buyers for woollen and seasonable fabrics, and a fair business has been transacted in the cloth halls of the latter town, manufacturers being on the whole well engaged, but in other districts, Manchester and Leicester remain dull, and the lace branch of Nottingham, together with the whole of the home interests, have not in any degree revived.

Cotton—There was a good demand in Liverpool on Saturday, with a healthier tone, and the sales amounted to 15,000 bales, 7,000 of which were for export and speculation. This week also the demand has been active, and higher prices were asked to-day.

Flax—Markets have been very fully supplied, and large quantities of milled have found purchasers—prices, hand-scutched, 7s to 8s 10d; milled, 7s 6d to 13s.

Hemp—Manilla remained in Liverpool last week, in the flat state reported in the previous one, and there was a total absence of business to record.

Jute—Sold in London last week with fair spirit, and at full former value. In Liverpool the market was steady, and the sales to Friday reached 2,000 bales, at £14 15s to £22 per ton, for common to fine, being full rates.

Metals—The only variation in London last week was a decline in Scotch pig iron and spelter.

Foreign and Colonial—The demand for sugar in our market during the past week was rather limited, but notwithstanding the decline of prices at Mincing-lane, rates were pretty fairly sustained here. The tea market partook of the general dulness prevailing on the other side of the Channel, and sales were difficult except at concessions on the part of holders. On a review of the reports of the London market for the same period, it will be seen that a limited business was concluded during the past week, and that prices at the close continued to show a declining tendency. The advices from producing countries had, in nearly all instances, indicated favourably of future supplies, but they did not induce any perceptible anxiety to realise, and only moderate parcels of the leading staples were placed on offer. Sugar again declined 6d to 1s per cwt, Mauritius showing the greatest reduction. Owing to the recent falling off in the deliveries, the stock does not exhibit so large a deficiency on comparing with that of last year. Coffee was rather freely offered, and prices receded 1s to 1s 6d per cwt., but nearly the whole offered passed into the hands of the trade. In the tea market business continues nearly at a stand, and sales could only be effected at a reduction in prices, the China letters having, if anything, increased the prevailing heaviness. The inquiry for rice became more frequent towards the close of the week, but without resulting in transactions of any moment. The spice sales manifested a better demand for pepper, some rather large parcels of which were placed at quite former terms. Cassia lignea was the turn cheaper, with a dull sale. The oil and seed trades did not vary materially, but buyers had an occasional advantage in terms. Russian tallow slightly declined, but the price of English was the turn dearer on Friday.

In Liverpool, during the same time, there was more business transacted at the decline in rates of the previous week, but there was an absence of animation, and the general tone of the market was weak. In coffee there was hardly any alteration, the business consisting of retail lots of Rio (900 bags in all) on the spot, without change in value, and a cargo of Rio (4,000 bags) of superior quality afloat, for a near Continental port, was sold at 60s per cwt. f p a. Of cocoa, the sales were limited—35 bags Para sold at 62s per cwt. from the quay. The business in rice, on the spot, was confined to retail lots, at a reduction of 9d to 1s from the previous highest point, and the market closed without animation. Pearl sago was unchanged in value, and sales were only small in extent. As to spices, there were no sales to report in pimento, cassia lignea, or ginger, but 120 bags Singapore black pepper sold at 4¾ for grey and 4¾d per lb for good. Respecting oils, little was done in palm, the sales having been only retail in character; cocoa nut was steady, and the business in olive was only moderate, owing to the small quantity offering. Linseed oil was in demand for export, but the market closed dull. English refined rape was offered on easier terms, but foreign maintained its value. For tallow there was a fair inquiry, and prices remained unaltered.

The accounts from London represent a continuance of the dulness in produce which prevailed last week. Sugar was rather cheaper to-day; and coffee, with the exception of Plantation Ceylon, somewhat lower. The rice market remains inactive, and saltpetre is flat.

The tea market also continues in the depressed condition which it has exhibited for some time past; purchases on yesterday could only be induced by lower-ing quotations, and to-day, it appears, more disposition to realise was shown by holders. The intelligence from China has not had any immediate effect either one way or the other, as supplies left the Chinese ports with a freedom during the war that has hardly been surpassed in times of peace. The same remarks apply also to the silk market, the war not having in the slightest degree prevented the required supplies being obtained.

Tallow remains steady in London, with very little doing. The following are the particulars as to stock, &c., in the latter city up to yesterday:—

	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.
Stock this day	...	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.	Casks.
Price of P.Y.C.	...	17,464	33,478	47,245	74,096
	...	58s 3d	52s 6d	50s 6d to 50s 9d	58s 0d to 58s 3d	60s 3d
Delivery last week	...	2,336	2,848	2,366	2,404	1,118
Do. from 1st June	...	74,414	63,580	62,924	45,806	52,039
Arrived last week	...	1,224	1,197	2,550		1,854
Do. from 1st June	...	74,898	83,941	84,806	80,969	90,041
Price of Town	...	60s 3d	55s 9d	53s 6d	58s 0d	61s 0d

Provisions—Towards the end of last week there was more firmness in the demand for Irish butter in London, and in most instances prices were supported. Cork was selling at from 84s to 114s; Limerick, 102s to 108s; Carlow, 108s to 110s; Tralee and Sligo, 95s to 104s. English qualities supported late rates, and the transactions in foreign somewhat increased. Bacon moved off slowly at 64s to 65s for Waterford sizeable, and 60s to 63s for outsized. Lard was in request; bladdered at 58s to 65s; keg and firkin, 56s to 76s per cwt. Most other provisions moved off slowly at the above rates.

Cattle—The supply of Christmas stock at Liverpool on yesterday was of more than average quality, and the demand for this description was good with prices high. The extreme value of the best cattle was 8d, the general day's price being 7½d. Good sheep were in request at 8d to 8¼d, but inferior cattle and sheep were slow to sell at last week's prices. The number of cattle amounted to 2,387, and of sheep to 8,345. In London, on yesterday, the great Christmas cattle market was also held, but certainly not the number of beasts being unusually large, the demand for most breeds was by no means active. However, the primest breeds were in fair request, at somewhat high currencies. A few very superior Scots, &c, realised 5s 6d per 8lbs, but the general top figure for beef was 5s 4d per 8 lbs.

From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, there were received 3,200 Scots, &c; from Lincolnshire, &c, 2,300 shorthorns; from Devonshire, 800 Devons; from other parts of England, 1,000 various breeds; from Scotland, 700 Scots and crosses; and from Ireland, 350 oxen, &c.

There was a moderate show of sheep. The best breeds moved off steadily; in some instances, prices had an upward tendency, a few very fine downs having sold at 6s per 8lb. Otherwise, the mutton trade was inactive, but at full prices. There were a few lambs on show, but in very poor condition.

The market was fairly supplied with calves. Prime veal was rather dearer. Otherwise, the trade was rather heavy.

The demand for pigs was steady, and, in some instances, prices were a shade higher.

The total imports of foreign stock into London last week amounted to 4·525 head. In the corresponding week in 1859, 4,364; in 1858, 5,734; in 1857, 1,896; in 1856, 1895; in 1855, 4,326; and in 1854, 2,528 head.

Grain &c.—The imports of foreign grain into the United Kingdom continue on a large scale, and are principally composed of wheat and flour from America of the other articles the supplies from abroad have been moderate. The closing of canal navigation in the latter country, and the stoppage by ice of shipments from certain European ports, which must be soon expected, will probably cause from henceforth a falling off in the exports of foreign grain to England. Trade, during the past week, assumed a decidedly firmer tone, but the enormous foreign importations kept the upward tendency of prices somewhat in check. In the markets across the Channel, however, foreign wheat advanced 1s per quarter in several places, owing to the large consumption and the inadequate supply of English corn. Oats and barley, in several instances realised a similar advance, and most other articles likewise improved in value. At Mark-lane on yesterday, the quantity of English wheat on offer was very limited, and was chiefly in poor condition, but both red and white parcels moved off freely at an advance in the quotations realised on that day week of 1s to 2s per quarter, at which nearly the entire quantity changed hands. The supply of foreign wheat was very large, and most descriptions sold freely at an improvement in value of from 1s to 2s per qr. For barley there was a good consumptive demand, and fine malting was 1s dearer. Oats also brought 6d more money, and both beans and peas were in request, and in some instances brought 1s per quarter more. Flour was likewise dearer by 1s to 1s 6d. At our Corn Exchange, to-day, the supply of farmers' grain was small, from which sellers expected a good advance from the animated state of the English markets, but only 6d per barrel higher could be obtained on wheat, and from 3d to 6d on oats; barley, also, in some cases, brought more money. For Indian corn, there was an improved consumptive demand, and Ibralla sold at 39s to 39s 6d; Mafagan, 40s to 40s 6d; Galatz and Odessa, 40s 6d to 41s; and white, 42s to 46s. In foreign wheat there was not a large business done, owing, no doubt, to the purchases made by millers on Friday. The following are the quotations:—White wheat, 31s to 33s 6d; red, 28s to 31s 6d; barley, 16s to 21s; bere, 16s to 17s 6d; rape, 26s to 30s; oats, 13s 3d to 16s 3d; oatmeal, 15s to 17s; and bakers flour, 19s to 23s.

At Newcastle and at Leeds, to-day, prices for some articles were rather dearer, and at Liverpool wheat met an average demand at from 2d to 3d per 100lbs over Friday's rates; flour, also, was 6d higher, and Indian corn was in better demand and 1s dearer, but in other articles there was no change to notice.

Seeds—Business was dull in London, last week, and the indisposition to operate increased; 3,600 bags Patna linseed sold privately, but no business took place at the auctions on Thursday; to effect sales, lower prices would have had to be accepted. In London, the demand for linseed was less active than in the preceding week; for rapeseed the inquiry was very slow, and prices became 10s lower; cotton seed was also little inquired after, and prices were the turn in favour of buyers.

Cakes—150 tons American linseed sold in Liverpool, last week, on the spot, at £10 12s 6d to £11, and 385 barrels to arrive, at £11 10s per ton; 60 tons cotton seed cakes sold at £8 15s per ton.

Guano—Liverpool prices are—For Peruvian, £12 to £13 5s; Upper Peruvian, £7 5s; Kooria Mooria, £4 to £5; and Ichaboe, in bags, £5 15s per ton.

DUBLIN CORN EXCHANGE—TUESDAY.

Our market still continues to be poorly supplied, especially with farmers' wheat. To-day a smart advance was demanded on every description of grain, but towards the close wheat could be quoted 6d, and oats 3d to 6d dearer than on Friday. Barley of all qualities fully supported that day's currencies, and grinding samples in some cases the turn in favour of the seller Indian corn met an increased demand at an improvement of 1s.

	s d	s d		s d	s d
White wheat,	31 0 to 33 0		Oatmeal,	15 0 to 17 0	
Red do.	28 0	31 6	Rapeseed,	26 0	30 0
Barley,	16 0	21 0	Bakers' flour	19 0	23 0
Bere,	16 6	17 6	Indian corn		
Oats,	13 3	16 3	per 480 lbs.	39 0	41 0

(BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.)

LONDON PRODUCE MARKET, DEC. 18.—Sugar market dull, and rather cheaper. Coffee rather lower; plantation Ceylon steady. Tea dull; more disposition to realise. Rice market inactive. Rum—A Government contract for 100,000 gallons has been taken at 1s 9½d to 1s 10½d. Saltpetre flat.

LIVERPOOL CORN MARKET, DEC. 18.—Good attendance of dealers and millers at this market. An average demand for wheat at an improvement of 2d to 3d per 100lbs over Friday. Flour in fair request, and 6d dearer. Oats and oatmeal steady. Indian corn in better demand, and must be quoted 1s dearer.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE MARKET, DEC. 18.—Sugar market very flat. Rice not much doing. Saltpetre firm. Seeds easier.

LARNE COR

The *Times* is preparing the public for a grave appointment. In an article semi-jocose, such as could be penned by a jester at a funeral, we are told that the Emperor's palace was looted," and then a view is made out to the effect, "that in the gardens that palace the prisoners were first thrown down bound." This is all the satisfaction the *manes* of dead are to receive. But if this be all the satisfaction Lord Elgin has obtained—obtained, too, by a mistake on the part of the French—then we that his success is worse than a defeat, his return flight, and his victory is a scandal to England a disgrace to himself.

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r of us remember with what exultation the first graphic message direct from America was received through the entire breadth of the Atlantic at way. That triumph was, unhappily, but of short ation. Although a plateau 800 miles in length found 1,200 fathoms deep, formed of the remains he most elementary animals, and calculated in all ects for the bed of an electric cable, the Atlantic graph was a failure. There are ranges of Alps Appenines under the sea. There are cliffs, pices, and jagged rocks, against which a line es and wears away. The greater portion of the y Atlantic Cable still lies, apparently useless, on bed of the Atlantic. But *natura vincitur tentando*, the failure of one experiment teaches the way ceed in another.

he North Atlantic Telegraph Company intend n their line, or rather a succession of short from the extremity of Scotland to Faroe. ing Faroe, the line will be conveyed to the east of Scotland, and thence by land across to Faxe From Faxe Bay the cable will pass under seato nland, and, having been laid through Greenwill touch the shore of Labrador; here it will a branch of the great American lines already istence.

he land portion of the route was carefully exd by Dr. Rae, and in no place "did any obcles present themselves to the erection of a egraph wire." The sea portion was carefully yed by Sir Leopold M'Clintock, in her Maship Bulldog. With the exception of some g currents running between the Faroe Islands, which may be avoided, Sir Leopold M'Clintock all favourable. The ice is too inconsiderable struct the laying down of a cable during the nal months, and the sea bottom and depth of ean in the line of route are decidedly favour-

ere are points connected with this survey which e a passing notice. Iceland is not that dreary iscrable region it has been so often represented

It is peopled, and has its fruits, crops, and ; and its shores are visited by drift ice only seven or eight times in a century.

probably, the most curious fact is that a pergistry of the comparative temperature, fixed ervation of nature, has been kept in Iceland early a period as the ninth century. It was hese "Icelandic Annals" that Sir Leopold tock gathered authentic information regarding vements of ice in those seas.

cable to be adopted by this company is formed fferent plan from that of the Galway cable mpany is preparing to proceed with the work sly. Owing to the comparative shortness of ge there will be no difficulty in laying the lengths, and, should an injury occur anywhere, ct may be readily discovered and made good. aid rather that the line started from our own but, since from the failure of the last attempt the expenditure it involved, that is beyond pes, we must heartily wish success to this deavour to bind together the Old World and

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Times on the Modification of the French

t System —

Emperor of the French has just resolved upon fe which will probably have a more immediate pon the relations between France and England the elaborate provisions of the new Treaty. ejesty has decided that from and after this day, it British subjects coming into France "shall itted and allowed to travel about without pass-

Thus speaks the Emperor Napoleon, and the proclaimed over political superstitions as as public opinion. Startled by the easy capture of A thousand times have we been assured that ition of the Passport system was an impossiithat such an idea might approve itself to our conceptions, but that it was utterly inapplicthe position of Continental States: that it was alladium, their ægis, their shield, and everyin short, that it was not only precious but inble. With great force was it intimated that n of officials lived and prospered upon the f the system, and that to destroy these gains like destroying a profession. All these argu ave now vanished into air. The thing is dn it will be done—done, we venture to pre the utmost facility and with the best possible

reform which is not to be measured by appear- It may seem a thing small enough in itself, and to affect in its operation any great number of We may even be told that the grievance was naginary, and that one traveller in fifty was to trouble about his Passport. The truth, is far otherwise, and this decree of the Emevidence of the sagacity with which he appreof English character. The Passport system was g annoyance to British travellers in France. ved the two things which Talleyrand detest exatious stoppages for the sake of small exand constant liability to official interference. ot seldom experience the actual evil, but you rid of the risk. At any hour of the day or any pretence, or on no pretence, you might be to produce your 'papers,' like a suspicious esse on the high seas; and, if this manifest of on and purposes did not satisfy the inquirer liable to detention and imprisonment at ion. It was a right of search in the most form hanging over the traveller at every stage ney. At the best, you could never escape n or fine. You might compound with a naire, and be quit of the job for a two-france a couple of hours' delay; but that much was and, as it might recur at every town you ou were never safe. Above all—and this ost exasperating feature in the case—the sysyou, as a matter of course, under the notice of the police, from the first moment of your the country to the moment of your departure. act of your travelling was regarded as a proequiring justification. You had to clear a *primâ facie* case against you, and the Passyour ticket-of-leave. Unluckily, it was to insure the completeness of this precious

No man could ever take it for granted that it was in perfect order, and consequently he at the mercy of the police, who from whim, eal, or spite, might deal with him as they other warrant than some alleged defect ballistic form of the Passport. Passports ice agents what the confessional is to the iesthood—the instrument of power and

wever, is an end of them, as far as we are in the dominions of France. From the first few Years we may land in France and travel and quit France again, without any more than we experience at home. We shall no arked men; we shall be admitted and reelike malefactors on leave or prisoners on like honest people and welcome guests. No inspector, or patrol, will be entitled to crossor worry us; we shall not be delayed three hours while a train is shunted for our benefit, olicestone; we shall step out of the railway thout misgiving at the right of the uniforms rm, and see the landlord of the hotel approach without dismay. It will be quite a pleasure ais or Boulogne under such novel condiipendence and freedom. We shall climb the steps, and set foot on the well-known pier, me together now. It will be worth going r the sake of this single gratification—for ght of moving about at our pleasure. If English tourists in France is not trebled ar it will be wonderful indeed.

dity of the now exploded system will be into strong relief by the very facility and ing the change. We never know the folly till we have got it, and find how easily we it it. It was the peculiarity of the Passthat, while it wrought an infinity of mischief ver contemplated, it proved utterly useless ns presumed to be kept in view. None tter than the police themselves. They fectly that all the fish they pretended to aways, and as a matter of course, through We think we may defy anyone to produce f a conspirator, malefactor, or other evil n who was arrested upon the evidence of

On the contrary, as the police were conditions of their own system to take of the Passport as conclusive, and as the ne gentry were invariably in order, the ed exceedingly convenient to them. Ex-Passports they might have had to give of themselves, but these documents saved ble and risk together. There they were, icketted as lawful travellers by the police aring the police mark, and covered by the ate. As they had taken excellent care to formality, there was nothing to be done with them, and the weight of the system consequently fell on the unsuspecting victims whose very innocence had prevented them from providing against its snares.

We must not conclude without observing that the very terms of this decree bespeak the most signal goodwill on the part of the Emperor Napoleon towards the people of this country. A more emphatic proof of his desire to promote amicable intercourse between Englishmen and Frenchmen could not possibly be given. Free intercourse is the complement of Free Trade, and the French Treaty itself will be brought more effectually into operation by the abolition of Passports than by any either means. There will now be no more difficulty in returning from London to Paris than from London to Manchester, nor any more cost than against his going to Glasgow. Steam has "bridged the Channel," and Louis Napoleon has now removed the turnpike-gates. France is now really "thrown open," and in this country we thoroughly understand what that phrase imports. It means all the difference between free enjoyment and virtual exclusion. Place anything like a barrier in the way, however slight, and Englishmen turn aside to another road. A halfpenny toll will destroy the utility of a bridge, and the need of a ticket chokes nine-tenths of the public off an instructive spectacle. For the first time we can now go to France and mingle with Frenchmen on terms of perfect freedom, and the removal of the barrier is not only a national compliment, but an expression of amity and a pledge of peace. Six months hence both nations will be wondering how an institution so preposterously mischievous could ever have been maintained.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The question asked by R. T. is professional, and would be most safely answered by his legal adviser.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Some good-natured London friends of the working man of the metropolis have proposed that he should take a trip to Paris, and accordingly preparations are making. No one knew the object, no one can comprehend the meaning, and no one can see the necessity of sending our masons, carpenters, &c., to the capital of France. No doubt it is a very philanthropic measure, and Merrifield and Franklin, the originators, deserve a great deal of credit for their humanity, but, considering everything, the season, expense, not to mention loss of time, it appears, to say the least of it, inopportune. Let the "workingman" wait for summer, when he will be enabled to appreciate properly Versailles and the Bois de Boulogne.

One of the annual wonders of the London world is the publication of "Kelly's Post Office Directory." There it is in the red cover, scarily as broad and thick as it is long, containing more names and facts than any library without it, and more printed matter than all the novels of a season—and that is saying something.

Mr. Layard, now that he is member for Southwark, receives a pat on the head, and a little paternal advice from the press. He is counselled not to be hasty; and, above all things, not to let his tongue run riot among facts. He is warned of the evil of sanguinity, and generally recommended to be a good boy. I don't think there is much of his taking the good advice. He has pledged himself too far on the Radical side, and has no alternative but perseverance. Perseverance, however, will be fatal to him. It may keep the electors of Southwark on his side, but it will lose him the esteem of the House.

The Empress has left us at last with the good wishes of all for her future happiness. She has, all through, expressed her gratitude for the kindness and courtesy she has received. She is, no doubt of it, an universal favourite in England. She has done more to gain sympathy for her husband than even the Commercial Treaty. Since Matilda, daughter of Henry the First, left our shores, we never saw an Empress till Eugenie came. She has won golden opinions from all kinds of people, and has earned the good-will of all.

The thousand and one things belonging to Christmas are one after another turning up. Large Christmas trees with all kinds of imaginable toys and bonbons, are rising in the confectioners' shops, and large carts full of holly are to be rumble along the streets. Thousands of almanacs overflood and circulated to tell us all the great days in the year, and who died on them, and when the moon rises, and when the sun sets, and when high water comes, and when it does not, and what the cab fares are from this to that, with several other bits of useful information, interspersed with innumerable pieces of advice, in which the words *wise* and *wisdom* occur in every prominent shape. If you will consent to believe that "Jones has the best cutlery in London." Not to mention the thousand Christmas facts, let me note one—the great cake sale at the Hanover-square rooms. Picture, if you can, ten thousand pounds' worth of Christmas cakes; ten thousand pounds' worth of flour, and suet, and sugar, and almonds, and currants, and raisins, and spices, and nutmegs, and sugar, and citron, and Heaven knows what not. I do not attempt to give you the delightful idea of the spectacle, but a little girl-friend informs me that one of the cakes alone is as high as the table; only it was made like a table, but like as if it were one broad ottoman, with several other ottomans piled on it, getting smaller as they go up, till the top one is no bigger than a small footstool; and all covered over with that beautiful white stuff like snow, with little Cupids and doves and here and there, with wings." They have all to be sold for, and the tickets are only is each. If I should get it, you am I to bring it home? It won't fit in a Hansom, nor even a four-wheeler, so perhaps, after all, I'd have to cut it up in pieces. Detestable! Cut up the pride and joy of the dove with silver wings! The dove of peace and doves with wings at least shall be sacred, and if it come to the worst I'll sit down and, in the presence of the envious crowd, devour them wings and all. Having done so I'll cut up my edible ottoman and send a piece to each member of a Volunteer corps as a wedding cake to dream on.

The Baroness Rothschild has set a good example to her sex. Knowing the distress in Coventry through the changes in the ribbon trade, she has ordered a dress to made entirely of ribbons! Five hundred pieces will be used.

In an article in *All the Year Round* on sickness in London there are some very sound remarks. It appears that in towns and cities, wherever civilisation has progressed and physicians abound, there exists, compared with the country, more sickness, but less death. In cities, ailing life is prolonged by means of medicine and doctors. The sickly child is reared up a sickly boy, and in time becomes a sickly man, who marries and begets sickly children, thus propagating hereditary constitutional diseases. Where this will end it is impossible to foresee. In times of epidemic these patients are the first to catch and communicate disease, and thus the evil increases. Now in the country, doctors not being so plentiful, the sickly child in consequence dies; none but the healthy sons survive to become fathers. Their children are healthy, and their grandchildren are healthy.

I take it for granted that you have heard of the humour of Baron Bramwell. He is distinguished for the same kind of perception of the ridiculous as your own Judge Keogh was famous for. In a case which brought before his facetious lordship on Friday last, in sentencing the prisoner, the learned judge adverted to the heinousness of burglary and house-breaking, as compared with larceny and the other minor "sneaking" offence, concluding his remarks *with* a piece of advice to thieves in general—"Thieve quietly," said he; "don't knock people about, and you won't get knocked about yourselves." This is as good as a moral of Æsop's.

Are the good old days of pig-tails and knee-breeches returning again? It would seem so. Here, in the nineteenth century, notwithstanding railways and telegrams, and steamboats, here we are gradually receding towards a primeval state of things. Even stocks, positively the stocks, have been mentioned as a punishment. A photographer, guilty of having desired to take some one in their Sunday clothes, has been brought up at the Mansion House, and the Lord Mayor has told him that the punishment due to his offence was no less than the stocks. What is the use of debates in Parliament, or a free press, if we find ourselves again under a state of things anterior to "Wilkes and Liberty." Why should we think of extending civilisation to Pekin when the final result must be the revival of the Star Chamber in the Celestial Empire.

The riflemen, having obtained unexpected proficiency in target firing, are becoming more eager to try their skill on more difficult criterions. Some say that firing at a target with a rifle, being aware of the distance, is no proof whatever of accuracy of aim. Then it is proposed that the sights of the rifle be abolished, in order to make the rifleman judge his own distance, and accustom himself to elevate or depress the weapon accordingly. Some say the distance ought not to be given, and others have even gone so far as to say that the target should not be stationary. A target appearing at intervals, or a moveable board, with the figure of a soldier painted on it, is recommended. It is said the French never have sights to their rifles, knowing right well that in the rush and smoke of battle, they would be next to useless. After all, it is my opinion that a great deal too much attention has been paid to musketry. Talk as they will all battles must be won with the bayonet. Look at Calatiffimi. There the Neapolitans were decimating the Garibaldian rifle corps, the latter rushed at them and carried all before them. Then in the north of Italy there were the Tyrolese Jagers, the finest shots in the world, posted in every available place, but the Zouaves dashed pell-mell at them and drove them away. Firing from behind walls and hedges demoralises a man. In the Crimea, when the attack on the Redan was determined on, men from the trenches were selected. What was the consequence? As soon as the assault commenced, instead of dashing right on, the men skulked behind every available hiding-place, and commenced popping at the enemy. More firing demoralises men, and unfits them for charging. The Italian Bersaglieri have only the Brown Bess, and yet they carry all before them, simply because they rely more on the bayonet than the firing.

A new periodical is coming out which will serve as a kind of "Saturday Review" for the ladies. It is to be called the *Drawing-room*, with the additional title of a "Dilettanti Review." It is, they say, a copy, or, at least, bears some resemblance to the *Evening Leaf*, rendered famous by the writings of Goethe and Schiller. It will combine the highest literary, scientific, and artistic excellence, with a few pardonable trivialities. Every copy is to be covered with a mauve cover, adorned by an exquisite illustration from Phiz. The mauve is ladylike at all events.

An announcement appeared, the other day, in the *Bristol Daily Post*, which has not a little astonished me. A couple previously married, per registrar, got married again by a Church of England minister, in order to obtain the "Gloucestershire Guinea." Now, what is the "Gloucestershire Guinea," and of whom does the well-known old county society consist that gives the said guinea? and for what purpose is said old county society established? and has the going away of Gloucestershire guineas been set down as one of its most important bye-laws? From the facts above mentioned it would appear that it is given solely to married persons, and those two if married in the church, and not by registrar. Putting this and that together, I am inclined to fancy that the "Gloucestershire Guinea" is a relic of the good old times. It is an ancient companion, you may depend, of the Dunmow Flitch presented to any married couple who have lived their first year without quarrelling. At Highgate, too, there is an old custom of seizing on travellers, and making them swear under the celebrated archway, that they never will drink water, when they can get wine, qualifying the promise by the saving clause of "if I like." The custom is now nearly defunct, the teetotallers having demurred. Then there is the custom of giving all wayfarers something to eat and drink in the remote parts of the country; and the rather singular tradition upheld by executors of an old London tradesman, of giving out a legacy in fourpenny bits.

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The postal millennium is undoubtedly arriving. Sir Rowland Hill, that benefactor of everybody, is behind him since both nations will be wondering how an institution so preposterously mischievous could ever have been maintained.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The question asked by R. T. is professional, and would be most safely answered by his legal adviser.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Some good-natured London friends of the working man of the metropolis have proposed that he should take a trip to Paris, and accordingly preparations are making. No one knew the object, no one can comprehend the meaning, and no one can see the necessity of sending our masons, carpenters, &c., to the capital of France. No doubt it is a very philanthropic measure, and Merrifield and Franklin, the originators, deserve a great deal of credit for their humanity, but, considering everything, the season, expense, not to mention loss of time, it appears, to say the least of it, inopportune. Let the "workingman" wait for summer, when he will be enabled to appreciate properly Versailles and the Bois de Boulogne.

One of the annual wonders of the London world is the publication of "Kelly's Post Office Directory." There it is in the red cover, scarily as broad and thick as it is long, containing more names and facts than any library without it, and more printed matter than all the novels of a season—and that is saying something.

Mr. Layard, now that he is member for Southwark, receives a pat on the head, and a little paternal advice from the press. He is counselled not to be hasty; and, above all things, not to let his tongue run riot among facts. He is warned of the evil of sanguinity, and generally recommended to be a good boy. I don't think there is much of his taking the good advice. He has pledged himself too far on the Radical side, and has no alternative but perseverance. Perseverance, however, will be fatal to him. It may keep the electors of Southwark on his side, but it will lose him the esteem of the House.

The Empress has left us at last with the good wishes of all for her future happiness. She has, all through, expressed her gratitude for the kindness and courtesy she has received. She is, no doubt of it, an universal favourite in England. She has done more to gain sympathy for her husband than even the Commercial Treaty. Since Matilda, daughter of Henry the First, left our shores, we never saw an Empress till Eugenie came. She has won golden opinions from all kinds of people, and has earned the good-will of all.

The thousand and one things belonging to Christmas are one after another turning up. Large Christmas trees with all kinds of imaginable toys and bonbons, are rising in the confectioners' shops, and large carts full of holly are to rumble along the streets. Thousands of almanacs overflood and circulated to tell us all the great days in the year, and who died on them, and when the moon rises, and when the sun sets, and when high water comes, and when it does not, and what the cab fares are from this to that, with several other bits of useful information, interspersed with innumerable pieces of advice, in which the words *wise* and *wisdom* occur in every prominent shape. If you will consent to believe that "Jones has the best cutlery in London." Not to mention the thousand Christmas facts, let me note one—the great cake sale at the Hanover-square rooms. Picture, if you can, ten thousand pounds' worth of Christmas cakes; ten thousand pounds' worth of flour, and suet, and sugar, and almonds, and currants, and raisins, and spices, and nutmegs, and sugar, and citron, and Heaven knows what not. I do not attempt to give you the delightful idea of the spectacle, but a little girl-friend informs me that one of the cakes alone is as high as the table; only it was made like a table, but like as if it were one broad ottoman, with several other ottomans piled on it, getting smaller as they go up, till the top one is no bigger than a small footstool; and all covered over with that beautiful white stuff like snow, with little Cupids and doves and here and there, with wings." They have all to be sold for, and the tickets are only is each. If I should get it, how am I to bring it home? It won't fit in a Hansom, nor even a four-wheeler, so perhaps, after all, I'd have to cut it up in pieces. Detestable! Cut up the pride and joy of the dove with silver wings! The doves of peace and doves with wings at least shall be sacred, and if it come to the worst I'll sit down and, in the presence of the envious crowd, devour them wings and all. Having done so I'll cut up my edible ottoman and send a piece to each member of a Volunteer corps as a wedding cake to dream on.

The Baroness Rothschild has set a good example to her sex. Knowing the distress in Coventry through the changes in the ribbon trade, she has ordered a dress to made entirely of ribbons! Five hundred pieces will be used.

In an article in *All the Year Round* on sickness in London there are some very sound remarks. It appears that in towns and cities, wherever civilisation has progressed and physicians abound, there exists, compared with the country, more sickness, but less death. In cities, ailing life is prolonged by means of medicine and doctors. The sickly child is reared up a sickly boy, and in time becomes a sickly man, who marries and begets sickly children, thus propagating hereditary constitutional diseases. Where this will end it is impossible to foresee. In times of epidemic these patients are the first to catch and communicate disease, and thus the evil increases. Now in the country, doctors not being so plentiful, the sickly child in consequence dies; none but the healthy sons survive to become fathers. Their children are healthy, and their grandchildren are healthy.

I take it for granted that you have heard of the humour of Baron Bramwell. He is distinguished for the same kind of perception of the ridiculous as your own Judge Keogh was famous for. In a case which brought before his facetious lordship on Friday last, in sentencing the prisoner, the learned judge adverted to the heinousness of burglary and house-breaking, as compared with larceny and the other minor "sneaking" offence, concluding his remarks *with* a piece of advice to thieves in general—"Thieve quietly," said he; "don't knock people about, and you won't get knocked about yourselves." This is as good as a moral of Æsop's.

Are the good old days of pig-tails and knee-breeches returning again? It would seem so. Here, in the nineteenth century, notwithstanding railways and telegrams, and steamboats, here we are gradually receding towards a primeval state of things. Even stocks, positively the stocks, have been mentioned as a punishment. A photographer, guilty of having desired to take some one in their Sunday clothes, has been brought up at the Mansion House, and the Lord Mayor has told him that the punishment due to his offence was no less than the stocks. What is the use of debates in Parliament, or a free press, if we find ourselves again under a state of things anterior to "Wilkes and Liberty." Why should we think of extending civilisation to Pekin when the final result must be the revival of the Star Chamber in the Celestial Empire.

The riflemen, having obtained unexpected proficiency in target firing, are becoming more eager to try their skill on more difficult criterions. Some say that firing at a target with a rifle, being aware of the distance, is no proof whatever of accuracy of aim. Then it is proposed that the sights of the rifle be abolished, in order to make the rifleman judge his own distance, and accustom himself to elevate or depress the weapon accordingly. Some say the distance ought not to be given, and others have even gone so far as to say that the target should not be stationary. A target appearing at intervals, or a moveable board, with the figure of a soldier painted on it, is recommended. It is said the French never have sights to their rifles, knowing right well that in the rush and smoke of battle, they would be next to useless. After all, it is my opinion that a great deal too much attention has been paid to musketry. Talk as they will all battles must be won with the bayonet. Look at Calatiffimi. There the Neapolitans were decimating the Garibaldian rifle corps, the latter rushed at them and carried all before them. Then in the north of Italy there were the Tyrolese Jagers, the finest shots in the world, posted in every available place, but the Zouaves dashed pell-mell at them and drove them away. Firing from behind walls and hedges demoralises a man. In the Crimea, when the attack on the Redan was determined on, men from the trenches were selected. What was the consequence? As soon as the assault commenced, instead of dashing right on, the men skulked behind every available hiding-place, and commenced popping at the enemy. More firing demoralises men, and unfits them for charging. The Italian Bersaglieri have only the Brown Bess, and yet they carry all before them, simply because they rely more on the bayonet than the firing.

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The postal millennium is undoubtedly arriving. Sir Rowland Hill, that benefactor of everybody, is behind his age. Oh! that it should ever come to pass that the inventor of the penny stamp has been surpassed. Yet so it is. Stamps in Paris have been issued for local and pam phlet circulation at ten a penny. Of course we won't let it be said that they manage these things better in France, and must follow suite. It is only fair, too, for, although a penny seems small, it is a great deal more than should be asked. A halfpenny stamp for metropolitan circulation and despatch might pay.

Fashionable Intelligence.

(FROM THE COURT CIRCULAR.)

WINDSOR CASTLE, DEC. 15.

Her Majesty the Queen held a Chapter of the Order of the Garter this afternoon at the Castle, when his Grace the Duke of Newcastle was solemnly invested with the insignia of that Most Noble Order. The following Knights Companions attended:—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Exeter, Marquis Camden, the Earl of Clarendon, the Marquis of Normanby, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Palmerston, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Westminster, the Duke of Devonshire, and the Earl of Harrowby.

The Earl and Countess of Lanesborough have arrived at Swithland Hall, Leicestershire, from Ireland.

The Countess of Fife and family have arrived in London from Scotland.

The Countess of Mountcharles was safely delivered of a daughter on Monday, at her residence in Rutland gate.

Lord and Lady Nigel Kennedy have left for Paris.

The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., and Mrs Cowper have left town on a visit to Lord and Lady Ebury, at Moor-park.

BALL AT WEXFORD.—The subscription ball in the Assembly Rooms was decidedly the most brilliant reunion of the season.

BALL AT TULLAMAINE CASTLE.—The ball at Tullamaine Castle, on Monday night last, was of an extremely pleasing character, and very fashionably and numerously attended. All the arrangements were conducted on a liberal and elegant scale, and in every way this event was worthy to be ranked with the most successful of the reunions of the season.

THE LATEST ARRIVALS AT THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL.—Mrs Burton and family, Mr and Mrs J Langston Sullivan, Mr and Mrs H Bags, Mr and Miss Burke, Mr and Mrs F Power, Mr Mrs and Miss Anderson, Mr and Mrs Butler, Mr and Mrs Crawford, Mr Mr and Miss M'Entee, Mr Mrs and Miss Smith, Mr and Mrs Dixon, Mr Mrs and Miss Hardy, Mrs and Miss Hall, Miss Wynn and Miss King, Miss Stuart, Mr and Mrs Watters, Mr and Mrs Henrick, and the Earl Fitzwilliam's agents—Messrs Worrell, Kearney, F Tuckey, Wauchope, and Barret. Departures—Lady Kilmaine, and the Hon Miss E Browne for Galston-park; Sir Charles Cuffe, Bart, The O'Grady, for Lamerick; Captain and Mrs and Mrs Newberry, for Limerick; Mr and the Misses Putland, for Bray.

University Intelligence.

COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Lord Talbot de Malahide has been elected a Vice-President of the society.

The subject for debate on this (Wednesday) evening will be—"That the Conduct of England with reference to the Opium Trade is Unjustifiable." Messrs. Murdock and Shore will take the affirmative, and Messrs. Hedge and Houston the negative. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock (College time), by the Rev. B. Williamson, F.T.C.D.

The Army.

The head-quarters of the 86th Regiment and two troops of the 3rd Light Dragoons are at present stationed in Derry, in aid of the civil power.

We are glad to state, as a step in the right direction towards the abolition of stoppages for equipment, that in future the cavalry soldiers are to be furnished *gratis* with stable necessaries, such as horse brushes, curry combs, sponges, corn bags, &c., instead of having them as part of their kit, as heretofore.

The Navy.

The armaments intended for Carrig and Scattering Islands on the Shannon have been despatched from Woolwich Arsenal, in the transport brig Gertrude, consisting of twelve 68 pounders, gun carriages, shot, shell, &c.

The screw steamship Warrior, intended to be iron clad, will be launched from the stocks at Millwall, on the 29th instant. The plates or slabs of iron, 202 in number, which will be employed on her, weigh 960 tons, one tier of which will be affixed before the launch takes place, and the remainder after she has floated.

LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

TIMES OFFICE,
Four o'clock, a.m.

ITALY.

ROME, DEC. 15TH (VIA MARSEILLES).—The Piedmontese have occupied Forte Corvo, since 11th inst. Some reactionary movements have taken place at Cagliinna Gubbio. The bombardment of Gaeta will recommence, in consequence of the non-acceptance, by King Francis II., of the proposed condition to surrender Gaeta. The King has issued a manifesto calling upon the Neapolitans to make a last effort to preserve the nationality. He guarantees to maintain their liberties, and grant distinct parliaments to the Two Sicilies. He also promises an amnesty. If compelled to succumb he will maintain the firm hope of returning to his dominions.

SPAIN.

MADRID, DEC. 16TH.—Government will submit the new tariff to the Cortes in January next.

PRUSSIA.

A Berlin letter says the Paris pamphlet on the Emperor Francis Joseph and Venetia has made a deep impression in that capital. All reasonable men approve of its conclusions. Europe has a right to exact from Austria that she shall not cause a great European war for Venetia, but it is doubted whether the Emperor will ever consent to discuss the question of negociation.

HUNGARY.

GRAN, 18TH DEC.—The Conference was opened today at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. the electoral law of '48 had already been adopted by the Assembly. M. Desseroffy demanded that the Imperial diploma inaugurating the new state of things should be established on an inviolate legal basis, which would at once remove any doubts concerning the national rights. He also said, a Diet constituted according to the electoral law of '48 could only be considered to form such a basis.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, DEC. 17.—Tewfick Effendi has been appointed to replace Monsclar Pasha as Minister of Finance.

INDIAN MAIL.

The Bombay mail, which reached Malta on Saturday, brings advices to November 6th. Business was at a stand-still, and exchange was higher.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLOSING OF THE GATES OF DERRY.

LONDONDERRY, TUESDAY NIGHT.—The celebration by the Apprentice Boys of the anniversary of the closing of the gates has terminated without disturbance. The effigy of Lundy was burned at 3 p.m., and 6 or 7 shots from one cannon fired, although Mr. Coulson, magistrate, demonstrated. A display of fireworks took place at 6 p.m., and a soiree in the Corporation Hall shortly after. The speakers were Mr. Hempton, Mr. Johnston, and others. The proceedings terminated about midnight. City perfectly quiet.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VIENNA, TUESDAY.—The *Ost Deutsche Post* publishes a telegram, dated Gran, 17th, announcing that conferences were to be opened definitively on the following day, and asserting that all difficulties had been removed. According to the same telegram the members of the conference would not demand the establishment of an independent Hungarian Ministry. Much excitement prevailed.

BOMBAY, 26TH NOV.—The import business is suspended on account of the resentment against income-tax.

A dispatch was received at the Foreign Office, yesterday, from her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg, dated Tuesday afternoon, stating that the Russian Government had received no news of the fate of Messrs' Bowlby and Brabazon.

The *Globe* remarks that the President's Message is, in fact, an appeal to the North to make concessions to the South on the subject of slavery.

As the new commercial treaty between France and Belgium will render the importation of coal absolutely free, English coal will also be admitted duty free into France.

The Valetto, with the Bombay mails, arrived at Marseilles at two p.m., yesterday. Mails were to leave for London at five p.m.

The Paris journals are instructed not only to deny the evacuation of Viterbo by the French troops, but to state that French Consuls have been sent beyond Viterbo to occupy Acquapendente, and several other points.

The proclamation respecting the new bronze coinage makes it a legal tender, provided that no person shall be obliged to take more of such penny pieces on any one payment than shall be of the value of 1s, or take more of such halfpence or farthing pieces on any one payment than shall be of the value of 6d.

Sir W. Verner, Baronet, is authorised by her Majesty to wear the insignia of Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, conferred upon him for distinguished services during the Peninsular war, and at Waterloo.

The importations of corn and grain into the United Kingdom in the month was, 179,559 qrs, besides 532,643 cwt of meal and flour.

The case of Hooper v. Ward, in the Court of Queen's Bench, has terminated in a verdict for plaintiff—damages, £500 for the assault, and £100 for the jewellery, if not given up, and £80 for the loan.

We understand that the Right Hon. the Chief Secretary, Edward Cardwell, has sent the Royal Irish Society for the protection of life from fire the munificent donation of £20.

TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.—On Monday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a girl aged 8 years, named Ellen Fay, residing in Byrne's-lane, off Potter's-alley, received serious injuries from her clothes taking fire while left alone in her parents' room. She ran at once into the street and met two men, named Andrew M'Donnell and John Healy, who extinguished the fire as soon as possible. The child was then conveyed to Jervis-street Hospital, where she remained until her death, which took place yesterday morning.—Another child aged 2½ years, named Mary Flood, died in Stevens' Hospital, on yesterday morning, from the effects of burns received at the residence of her parents, in Grand Canal-place. It appears that the clothes of the child took fire accidentally during the temporary absence of her parents. An inquest will be held upon the bodies this day.

DEATH BY DROWNING—NEWRY, DEC. 17.—On this evening the body of a man named William Best, who had been missing since Thursday last, was found by the dragmen employed in searching the canal, where it was supposed the unfortunate deceased had accidentally fallen in since the day he was missed. The body was found in that part of the canal opposite the Basin Walk, and on information being given to the police authorities, it was conveyed to Monaghan-street, where the deceased had lived. Intelligence was at once conveyed to Joshua M. Magee, Esq., coroner for this district, for the purpose of holding an inquest. It is expected that gentleman will arrive here to-morrow (Tuesday) morning.—*From a Correspondent.*

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT THROUGH CRINOLINE.—On Saturday morning last, about half-past nine, Mary Johnson, aged 25, wife of the engineman at the Shelton Bar iron Works, Hanley, went to the works with her husband's breakfast. She was incautious enough to go near the rolling-wheel, and, while talking to her husband, her dress, rendered expansive by crinoline, was caught by the revolving wheel, over which she was rapidly drawn, and in a few moments dashed literally to pieces, her remains, in mere fragments, being strewn about in all directions.

SERIOUS FIRES—FIRE ESCAPE SERVICES.—On Monday morning at an early hour a fire was discovered to be raging in the premises known as the Paris Hotel, situated at the corner of Leather-lane, Holborn. The fire, it is supposed, originated from a spark flying from a candle and falling upon some straw in the wine cellar, and had evidently been smouldering some time before discovered. An alarm having been given, the inmates made an attempt to descend by the staircase, but the heated smoke was so dense that the persons in the house were unable to descend, and by tying blankets and sheets together they were enabled to get upon the adjoining house in Leather-lane; but even there the smoke rolled over their heads and nearly prostrated them. Conductor Arkill and the men of the Royal Society's fire escape from Hatton-garden, at once placed his machine in front of the house, and four persons were brought down in safety. The brigade promptly arrived, but despite their efforts the fire could not be extinguished until the wine cellars and larders were burnt out, the diningroom on ground floor severely damaged by fire, and the upper part extensively damaged by heat and smoke. The fire commenced in the Kentish Knock sand on Friday last, and the rescue of four men, who, after four days' exposure and in the most exhausted condition, were saved from an appalling death, has been forwarded for the consideration of the National Lifeboat Institution. When the poor foreigners were landed on Margate pier on Friday night they presented a most heartrending sight, being more dead than alive, their swollen limbs and benumbed frames testifying to the great sufferings they had undergone during the previous four days. The master of the vessel has unhappily perished:—" Statement of the crew of the Lively lugger, of Margate, of seven hands, who declare—Being at sea on Friday morning, the 14th inst., in the vicinity of the Kentish Knock sand, at about daylight, we discovered a sunken wreck, with one mast standing, the wind being about E.S.E., blowing a little fresh, with a heavy swell. We, after trying with all sail to reach the wreck, found it impossible to get towards it, the tide being too strong; but, as we had neared it we fancied we discovered a flag on the masthead, which we took for a signal of distress, and seeing the dangerous situation of the crew, should they possibly have survived, in order to lose no time we got our boat out, fully manned her and

Times is preparing the public for a grave
intment. In an article semi-jocose, such as
be penned by a jester at a funeral, we are told
the Emperor's palace was looted," and then a
made out to the effect, "that in the gardens
palace the prisoners were first thrown down
und." This is all the satisfaction the *manes* of
ad are to receive. But if this be all the satis-
Lord Elgin has obtained—obtained, too, by a
mistake on the part of the French—then we
t his success is worse than a defeat, his return
ight, and his victory is a scandal to England
disgrace to himself.

of us remember with what exultation the first
graphic message direct from America was re-
d through the entire breadth of the Atlantic at
y. That triumph was, unhappily, but of short
on. Although a plateau 800 miles in length
und 1,200 fathoms deep, formed of the remains
most elementary animals, and calculated in all
ts for the bed of an electric cable, the Atlantic
raph was a failure. There are ranges of Alps
ppenines under the sea. There are cliffs,
ices, and jagged rocks, against which a line
and wears away. The greater portion of the
Atlantic Cable still lies, apparently useless, on
d of the Atlantic. But *natura vincitur tentando*,
e failure of one experiment teaches the way
ceed in another.

North Atlantic Telegraph Company intend
their line, or rather a succession of short
from the extremity of Scotland to Faroe.
ng Faroe, the line will be conveyed to the east
of Scotland, and thence by land across to Faxe
From Faxe Bay the cable will pass under sea to
land, and, having been laid through Green-
will touch the shore of Labrador; here it will
branch of the great American lines already
stence.

e land portion of the route was carefully exa-
by Dr. Rae, and in no place "did any ob-
les present themselves to the erection of a
graph wire." The sea portion was carefully
ved by Sir Leopold M'Clintock, in her Ma-
ship Bulldog. With the exception of some
currents running between the Faroe Islands,
hich may be avoided, Sir Leopold M'Clintock
all favourable. The ice is too inconsiderable
truct the laying down of a cable during the
nal months, and the sea bottom and depth of
an in the line of route are decidedly favour-

re are points connected with this survey which
e a passing notice. Iceland is not that dreary
ferable region it has been so often represented
It is peopled, and has its fruits, crops, and
; and its shores are visited by drift ice only
even or eight times in a century. §
probably, the most curious fact is that a per-
istry of the comparative temperature, fixed
rvation of nature, has been kept in Iceland
early a period as the ninth century. It was
hese "Icelandic Annals" that Sir Leopold
tock gathered authentic information regarding
vements of ice in those seas.
cable to be adopted by this company is formed
ferent plan from that of the Galway cable
mpany is preparing to proceed with the work
sly. Owing to the comparative shortness of
ge there will be no difficulty in laying the
lengths, and, should an injury occur anywhere,
ect may be readily discovered and made good.
uld rather that the line started from our own
; but, since from the failure of the last attempt
the expenditure it involved, that is beyond
pes, we must heartily wish success to this
deavour to bind together the Old World and
w.

Times on the Modification of the French
rt System —

Emperor of the French has just resolved upon
re which will probably have a more immediate
pon the relations between France and England
their elaborate provisions of the new Treaty.
ject has decided that from and after 1st May
ht British subjects coming into France "shall
itted and allowed to travel about without pass-
Thus speaks the Emperor Napoleon, and the
proclaimed over political superstitions is as
able as that illustrated by the easy capture of
A thousand times have we been assured that
lition of the Passport system was an impossi-
that such an idea might approve itself to our
conceptions, but that it was utterly inapplic-
the position of Continental States: that it was
alladium, their ægis, their shield, and every-
in short, that it was not only precious but in-
ible. With greater force was it intimated that
rch of officials lived and prospered upon the
of the system, and that to destroy these gains
e like destroying a profession. All these argu-
save now vanished into air. The thing is de-
and it will be done—done, we venture to pre-
th the utmost facility and with the best possible

reform which is not to be measured by appear-
It may seem a thing small enough in itself, and
ly to affect in its operation any great number of
We may even admit that the grievance was
inagiary, and that one traveller in fifty was
t to trouble about his Passport. The truth,
, is far otherwise, and this decree of the Em-
evidence of the sagacity with which he appre-
he English character. The Passport system was
ing annoyance to British travellers in France.
ve: the two things which Englishmen detest
and stoppages for the sake of small ex-
and constant liability to official interference.
ght seldom experience the actual evil, but you
rpid of the risk. At any hour of the day or
any pretence, or on no pretence, you might be
to produce your "papers," like a suspicious
vessel on the high seas; and, if this manifest of
son and purposes did not satisfy the inquirer
re liable to detention and imprisonment at
ction. It was a right of search in the most
form hanging over the traveller at every stage
rney. At the best, you could never escape
ion or fine. You might compound with a
nnaire, and be quit of the job for a two-franc
a couple of hours' delay; but that much was
e, and, as it might occur at every town you
you were never safe. Above all—and this
most exasperating feature in the case—the sys-
ed you, as a matter of course, under the notice
rol of the police, from the first moment of your
n the country to the moment of your departure.
fact of your travelling was regarded as a pro-
requiring justification. You had to clear
a *prima facie* case against you, and the Pass-
your ticket-of-leave. Unluckily, it was
to insure the completeness of this precious
. No man could ever take it for granted that
ort was in perfect order, and consequently he
s at the mercy of the police, who from whim,
zeal, or spite, might deal with him as they
no other warrant than some alleged defect
abalistic form of the Passport. Passports
olice agents what the confessional is to the
priesthood—the instrument of power and

owever, is an end of them, as far as we are
, in the dominions of France. From the first
New Year we may land in France, and travel
and quit France again, without any more
n than we experience at home. We shall no
marked men; we shall be admitted and re-
like malefactors on leave or prisoners on
like honest people and welcome guests. No
inspector, or patrol, will be entitled to cross-
or worry us; we shall not be delayed three
office while the truth starts for Paris or the
Folkestone; we shall step out of the railway
thout misgiving at the right of the uniforms
orm, and see the landlord of the hotel approach
s without dismay. It will be quite a pleasure
Calais or Boulogne under such novel condi-
dependence and freedom. We shall climb the
steps, and set foot on the well-known pier,
ions together now. It will be worth going
for the sake of this single gratification—for
light of moving about at our pleasure. If
of English tourists in France is not trebled
ear it will be wonderful indeed.
redity of the now exploded system will be
into effect with very little facility and
ding the change. We never know the folly
bit till we forego it, and find how easily we
out it. It was the peculiarity of the Pass-
that, while it wrought an infinity of mischief
never contemplated, it proved utterly useless
ends presumed to be kept in view. None
better than the police themselves. They
perfectly that all the fish they pretended to
always, and as a matter of course, through
e. We think we may defy anyone to produce
of a conspirator, malefactor, or other evil-
on who was arrested upon the evidence of
t. On the contrary, as the police were
e conditions of their own system to take
of the Passport as conclusive, and as the
een gentry were invariably in order, the
ved exceedingly convenient to them. Ex-
y Passports they might have had to give
t of themselves, but these documents saved
able and risk together. There they were,
ticketted as lawful travellers by the police
bearing the police mark, and covered by the
ute. As they had taken excellent care to
y formality, there was nothing to be done

with them, and the weight of the system consequently fell on the unsuspecting victims whose very innocence had prevented them from providing against its snares.

We must not conclude without observing, that the very terms of this decree bespeak the most signal goodwill on the part of the Emperor Napoleon towards the people of this country. A more emphatic proof of his desire to promote amicable intercourse between Englishmen and Frenchmen could not possibly be given. Free intercourse is the complement of Free Trade, and the French Treaty itself will be brought more effectually into operation by the abolition of Passports than by any other means. There will now be no more difficulty in returning from London to Paris than from London to Manchester, nor any more reason against a man's going to Bordeaux upon business than against his going to Glasgow. Steam has now bridged the Channel," and Louis Napoleon has now removed the turnpikegate. "France is now really "thrown open," and in this country we thoroughly understand what that phrase imports. It means all the difference between free enjoyment and virtual exclusion. Place anything like a barrier in the way, however slight, and Englishmen turn aside to another road. A halfpenny toll will destroy the utility of a bridge, and the need of a ticket will drive nine-tenths of the public off an instructive spectacle. For the first time we can now go to France and mingle with Frenchmen on terms of perfect freedom, and the removal of the barriers is not only a national compliment, but an expression of amity and a pledge of peace. Six months hence both nations will be wondering how an institution so preposterously mischievous could ever have been maintained.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The question asked by R. T. P. is professional, and would be most safely answered by his legal adviser.

PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE.
[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]
London, Monday.

Some good-natured London friends of the working man of the metropolis have proposed that he should take a trip to Paris, and accordingly preparations are making. No one knew the object, no one can comprehend the meaning, and no one can see the necessity of sending our masons, carpenters, &c., to the capitals of France. No doubt it is a very philanthropic measure, and Merrifield and Franklin, the originators, deserve a great deal of credit for their humanity, but, considering everything, the reason, expense, not to mention loss of time, it appears, to say the least of it, inopportune. Let the "working-man" wait for summer, when he will be enabled to appreciate properly Versailles and the Bois de Boulogne.

One of the annual wonders of the London world is the publication of "Kelly's Post Office Directory." There it is in its red cover, nearly as broad and thick as it is long, containing more names and facts than any library without it, and more printed matter than all the novels of a season—and that is saying something.

Mr. Layard, now that he is member for Southwark, receives a pat on the head, and a little parental advice, from the press. He is cautioned not to be hasty; and, above all things, not to let his tongue run riot among boots. He is warned of the evil of scurrility, and generally recommended to be a good boy. I don't think there is much fear of his taking the good advice. He has pledged himself too far on the Radical side, and has no alternative but perseverance. Perseverance, however, will be fatal to him. It may keep the electors of Southwark on his side, but it will lose him the esteem of the House.

The Empress has left us at last with the good wishes of all for her future happiness. She has, all through, expressed her gratitude for the kindness and courtesy she has received. She is, no doubt of it, an universal favourite in England. She has taken steps to gain sympathy for herself in England than even the Commercial Treaty. Queen Matilda, daughter of Henry the First, left our shores, we never saw an Empress till Eugenie came. She has won golden opinions from all kinds of people, and has earned the good-will of all.

The thousand and one things belonging to Christmas are one after another turning up. Large Christmas trees with all kinds of imaginable toys and bonbons, are rising in the confectioners' shops, and large carts full of holly and ivy rumble along the streets. Thousands of almanacs overflood us, circulated to tell us all the great days in the year, and who died on them, and when the moon rises, and when the sun sets, and when high water comes, and when it does not, and what the cab fares are from this to that, with several other bits of useful information, interspersed with innumerable pieces of advice, in which the words "rise" and "fall" stand very prominent—all these if you will consent to believe that "Jones has the best memory in London." Not to mention the thousand Christmas facts, let me note one—the great cake sale at the Hanover-square rooms. Picture, if you can, ten thousand pounds' worth of Christmas cakes; ten thousand pounds' worth of flour, and suet, and sugar, and almonds, and currants, and raisins, and spices, and nutmegs, and sugar, and citron—and Heaven knows what not. I do not wish to give you an exaggerated idea of the spectacle, but a little giri-friend informs me that one of the cakes alone is as high as the table; only it is made like a table, but like as if it were one broad woman, with several other ottomans piled on it, getting smaller as they go up, till the top one is no bigger than a round footstool; and all covered over with that beautiful white stuff like snow, with which the confectioner sets here and there, with wings." They are all to be exhibited, and the tickets are only 1s each. If I should get down to Ireland to bring it home? It won't fit in a Hansom, nor even a four-wheeler, so, perhaps, after all, I'd have to cut it up in pieces. Detestable! Cut up one of those cakes! A dove with wings at least shall be sacred, and if it come to the worst I'll sit down and, in the presence of the envious crowd, devour them wings and all. Having done so I'll cut up my edible ottoman and send a piece to each member of a Volunter corps as a wedding cake to dream on.

The Baroness Rothschild has set a good example to her sex. Knowing the distress in Coventry through the changes in the ribbon trade, she has ordered a dress to made entirely of ribbons! Five hundred pieces will be used.

In an article in *All the Year Round* on sickness in London there are some very sound remarks. It appears that in towns and cities, wherever civilisation progresses and physicians abound, there the deaths, compared with the country, more sickness, but less death. In cities, ailing life is prolonged by means of medicine and doctors. The sickly child is reared up a sickly boy, and in time becomes a sickly man, who marries and begets sickly children, thus propagating hereditary constitutional diseases. Where this will end it is impossible to foresee. In times of epidemic these patients are the first to catch and communicate disease, and thus the evil increases. Now in the country, doctors not being so plentiful, the sickly child in consequence dies; none but the healthy sons survive to become fathers. Their children are healthy, and their grandchildren are healthy.

I take it for granted that you have heard of the humour of Baron Bramwell. He is distinguished for the same kind of perception of the ridiculous as your own Judge Monahan. In a case of disputed property brought before his facetious lordship on Friday last, in sentencing the prisoner, the learned judge adverted to the heinousness of burglary and house-breaking, as compared with larceny and the other minor "sneaking" offence, concluding his remarks with a piece of advice to thieves in general—"Thieve quietly," said he; "don't knock people about, and you won't get knocked about yourselves." This is as good as a moral of Æsop's.

Are the good old days of pig-tails and knee-breeches returning again? It would seem so. Here, in the nineteenth century, notwithstanding railways and telegrams, and steamboats, here we are gradually receding towards a primeval state of things. The stocks, positively the stocks, have been mentioned as a punishment. Bumpkinship, laity of having desired to take some one their Sunday clothes, has been brought up at the Mansion House, and the Lord Mayor has told him that the punishment due to his offence was no less than the stocks. What is the use of debates in Parliament, or a free press, if we find ourselves again under a state of things anterior to "Wilks and Liberty." Why should we think of extending civilisation to Pekin when the final result must be the revival of the Star Chamber in the Celestial Empire.

The riflemen, having obtained unexpected proficiency in target firing, are becoming more eager to try their skill on more difficult criterions. Some say that firing at a target with a rifle, being aware of the distance, is to proof whatever of accuracy of aim. Then it is proposed that the sights of the rifle be abolished, in order to make the rifleman judge his own distance, and accustom himself to elevate or depress the weapon accordingly. Some say the distance ought not to be given, and others have even gone so far as to say that the target should not be stationary. A target appearing at intervals, or a moveable board, with the figure of a soldier painted on it, is recommended. It is said the French never have sights to their rifles, knowing right well that in the rush and smoke of battle, they would be next to useless. After all, it is my opinion that a great deal too much attention has been paid to musketry. Talk as they will all battles must be won with the bayonet. Look at Calatafimi. There the Neapolitans were decimating the Garibaldians by musketry, but the latter rushed at them and carried all before them. Then in the north of Italy there were the Tyrolese riflemen, the finest shots in the world, posted in every available place, but the Zouaves dashed pell-mell at them and drove them away. Firing from behind walls and hedges demoralises a man. In the Crimea, when the attack on the Redan was determined on, men from the trenches were selected. What was the consequence? As soon as the assault commenced, instead of dashing right on, the men skulked behind every available hiding-place, and commenced popping at the enemy. More firing demoralises men, and unfits them for charging. The Italian Bersaglieri have only the sword-bayonet, and yet they carry all before them, simply because they rely more on the bayonet than the firing.

A new periodical is coming out which will serve as a kind of "Saturday Review" for the ladies. It is to be called the *Drawing-room*, with the additional title of a "Dilettanti Review." It is, they say, a copy, or, at least, bears some resemblance to the *Evening Leaf*, rendered famous by the writings of Goethe and Schiller. It will combine the highest literary, scientific, and artistic excellence, with a few pardonable trivialities. Every copy is to be covered with a mauve cover, adorned by an exquisite illustration from Phiz. The mauve is ladylike at all events.

An announcement appeared, the other day, in the *Bristol Daily Post*, which has not a little astonished me. A couple previously married, by the registrar, got married again by a Church of England minister, in order to obtain the "Gloucestershire Guinea." Now, what is the Gloucestershire Guinea," and of whom does the well-known old county society consist that gives the said guinea? and for what purpose is said old county society established? and has the going away of Gloucestershire guineas been set down as one of its most important by-laws? From the facts above mentioned would appear that it is given solely to married persons, and those two if married in the church, and not by registrar. Putting this and that together, I am inclined to fancy that the "Gloucestershire Guinea" is a relic of the good old times. It is an ancient companion, you may depend, of the Dunmow Flitch presented to any married couple who have lived their first year without quarrelling. At Highgate, too, there is an old custom of seizing on travellers, and making them swear under the celebrated archway, that they never will drink water, when they can get wine, qualifying the promise by the saving clause of "if I like." The custom is now nearly defunct, the teetotallers having demurred. Then there is the custom of giving all wayfarers something to eat and drink in the remote parts of the country, and the rather singular tradition upheld by executors of an old London tradesman, of giving cut a legacy in fourpenny bits.

Notwithstanding the assertions made some time ago against the French for cruelty to animals—the case of live horse dissection being severely commented on—there is not a better or more energetic society for the protection of animals than exists in France. They spare no pains to disseminate works inculcating humane principles in the treatment of animals. They have this winter decreed a gold medal, worth 200 francs, to be awarded to the best work written with the view of inducing children to treat animals kindly. It will be printed in a cheap form, for distribution at the schools, and will, let us hope, be translated for the benefit of the young folks on this side of the Channel.

The postal millennium is undoubtedly arriving. Sir Rowland Hill, that benefactor of everybody, is behind his age. Oh! that it should ever come to pass that the inventor of the penny stamp has been surpassed. Yet so it is. Stamps in Paris have been issued for local and suburban circulation at ten a penny. Of course we won't let it be said that they manage these things better in France, and must follow suite. It is only fair, too, for, although a penny seems small, it is a great deal more than should be asked. A halfpenny stamp for metropolitan circulation and despatch might pay.

Fashionable Intelligence.

(FROM THE COURT CIRCULAR.)

WINDSOR CASTLE, DEC. 15.

Her Majesty the Queen held a Chapter of the Order of the Garter this afternoon at the Castle, when his Grace the Duke of Newcastle was solemnly invested with the insignia of that Most Noble Order. The following Knights Companions attended:—His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge, the Marquis of Exeter, Marquis Camden, the Earl of Clarendon, the Marquis of Normanby, the Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Palmerston, Earl Granville, the Marquis of Westminster, the Duke of Devonshire, and the Earl of Harrowby.

The Earl and Countess of Lanesborough have arrived at Swithland Hall, Leicestershire, from Ireland.

The Countess of Fife and family have arrived in London from Scotland.

The Countess of Mountcharles was safely delivered of a daughter on Monday, at her residence in Rutland gate.

Lord and Lady Nigel Kennedy have left for Paris.

The Right Hon. W. F. Cowper, M.P., and Mrs. Cowper have left town on a visit to Lord and Lady Ebury, at Moor-park.

BALL AT WEXFORD.—The subscription ball in the Assembly Rooms was decidedly the most brilliant reunion of the season.

BALL AT TULLAMAINE CASTLE.—The ball at Tullamaine Castle, on Monday night last, was of an extremely pleasing character, and very fashionably and numerously attended. All the arrangements were conducted on a liberal and elegant scale, and in every way the event was worthy to be ranked with the most successful of the reunions of the *beau monde*.

THE LATEST ARRIVALS AT THE SHELBOURNE HOTEL.—Mrs Burton and family, Mr and Mrs J Kingston Sullivan, Mr and Mrs H Bagg, Mr and Miss Burke, Mr and Mrs F Power, Mr Mrs and Miss Anderson, Mr and Mrs Butler, Mr and Mrs Crawford, Mr Mr and Miss M'Entee, Mr Mrs and Miss Smith, Mr and Mrs Dixon, Mr Mrs and Miss Hardy, Mrs and Miss Hall, Mrs and Miss King and Miss Stewart, Mr and Mrs Watters, Mr and Mrs Henrick, and the Earl Fitzwilliam's agents—Messrs. Worrell, Kearney, Tuckey, Wathen, and Stanley. Departures—Lady Kinnaird, the Hon Miss E Browne, for Galston-park; Sir Charles Cuffe, Bart, The O'Grady, for Limerick; Captain and Mrs and Mrs Newberry, for Limerick; Mr and the Misses Putland, for Bray.

University Intelligence.

COLLEGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Lord Talbot de Malahide has been elected a Vice-President of the society.

The subject for debate on this (Wednesday) evening will be—"That the Conduct of England with reference to the Opium Trade is Unjustifiable." Messrs. Murdock and Shore will take the affirmative, and Messrs. Hamilton and Houston the negative. The chair will be taken at eight o'clock (College time), by the Rev. B. Williamson, F.T.C.D.

The Army.

The head-quarters of the 86th Regiment and two troops of the 3rd Light Dragoons are at present stationed in Derry, in aid of the civil power.

We are glad to state, as a step in the right direction towards the abolition of stoppages for equipment, that in future the cavalry soldiers are to be furnished gratis with stable necessaries, such as horse brushes, curry combs, sponges, corn bags, &c., instead of having them as part of their kit, as heretofore.

The Navy.

The armaments intended for Carrig and Scattering Islands on the Shannon have been despatched from Woolwich Arsenal, in the transport brig Gertrude, consisting of twelve 68 pounders, gun carriages, shot, shell, &c.

The screw steamship Warrior, intended to be iron clad, will be launched from the stocks at Millwall, on the 29th instant. The plates or slabs of iron, 202 in number, which will be employed on her, weigh 960 tons, one tier of which will be affixed before the launch takes place, and the remainder after she has floated.

LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

TIMES OFFICE,
Four o'clock, a.m.

ITALY.

ROME, DEC. 15TH (VIA MARSEILLES).—The Piedmontese have occupied Forte Corvo, since 11th inst. Some reactionary movements have taken place at Cagliinna Gubbio. The bombardment of Gaeta will recommence, in consequence of the non-acceptance, by King Francis II., of the proposed condition to surrender Gaeta. The King has issued a manifesto calling upon the Neapolitans to make a last effort to preserve the nationality. He guarantees to maintain their liberties, and grant distinct parliaments to the Two Sicilies. He also promises an amnesty. If compelled to succumb he will maintain the firm hope of returning to his dominions.

SPAIN.

MADRID, DEC. 16TH.—Government will submit the new tariff to the Cortes in January next.

PRUSSIA.

A Berlin letter says the Paris pamphlet on the Emperor Francis Joseph and Venetia has made a deep impression in that capital. All reasonable men approve of its conclusions. Europe has a right to exact from Austria that she shall not cause a great European war for Venetia, but it is doubted whether the Emperor will ever consent to discuss the question of negociation.

HUNGARY.

GRAN, 18TH DEC.—The Conference was opened today at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m. the electoral law of '48 had already been adopted by the Assembly. M. Desseroffy demanded that the Imperial diploma inaugurating the new state of things should be established on an inviolate legal basis, which would at once remove any doubts concerning the national rights. He also said, a Diet constituted according to the electoral law of '48 could only be considered to form such a basis.

TURKEY.

CONSTANTINOPLE, DEC. 17.—Tewfick Effendi has been appointed to replace Monckiar Pasha as Minister of Finance.

INDIAN MAIL.

The Bombay mail, which reached Malta on Saturday, brings advices to November 6th. Business was at a stand-still, and exchange was higher.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLOSING OF THE GATES OF DERRY.

LONDONDERRY, TUESDAY NIGHT.—The celebration by the Apprentice Boys of the anniversary of the closing of the gates has terminated without disturbance. The effigy of Lundy was burned at 3 p.m., and 6 or 7 shots from one cannon fired, although Mr. Coulson, magistrate, demonstrated. A display of fireworks took place at 6 p.m., and a soiree in the Corporation Hall shortly after. The speakers were Mr. Hempton, Mr. Johnston, and others. The proceedings terminated about midnight. City perfectly quiet.

MISCELLANEOUS.

VIENNA, TUESDAY.—The *Ost Deutsche Post* publishes a telegram, dated Gran, 17th, announcing that conferences were to be opened definitively on the following day, and asserting that all difficulties had been removed. According to the same telegram the members of the conference would not demand the establishment of an independent Hungarian Ministry. Much excitement prevailed.

BOMBAY, 26TH NOV.—The import business is suspended on account of the resentment against incometax.

A dispatch was received at the Foreign Office, yesterday, from her Majesty's Minister at St. Petersburg, dated Tuesday afternoon, stating that the Russian Government had received no news of the fate of Messrs' Bowlby and Brabazon.

The *Globe* remarks that the President's Message is, in fact, an appeal to the North to make concessions to the South on the subject of slavery.

As the new commercial treaty between France and Belgium will render the importation of coal absolutely free, English coal will also be admitted duty free into France.

The Valetto, with the Bombay mails, arrived at Marseilles at two p.m., yesterday. Mails were to leave for London at five p.m.

The Paris journals are instructed not only to deny the evacuation of Viterbo by the French troops, but to state that French Consuls have been sent beyond Viterbo to occupy Acquaspendente, and several other points.

The proclamation respecting the new bronze coinage makes it a legal tender, provided that no person shall be obliged to take more of such penny pieces on any one payment than shall be of the value of 1s, or taky more of such halfpence or farthing pieces on any one payment than shall be of the value of 6d.

Sir W. Verner, Baronet, is authorised by her Majesty to wear the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, conferred upon him for distinguished services during the Peninsular war, and at Waterloo.

The importations of corn and grain into the United Kingdom in the month was, 179,559 qrs, besides 532,643 cwt of meal and flour.

The case of Hooper v. Ward, in the Court of Queen's Bench, has terminated in a verdict for plaintiff—damages, £500 for the assault, and £1000 for the jewellery, if not given up, and £80 for the loan.

We understand that the Right Hon. the Chief Secretary, Edward Cardwell, has sent the Royal Irish Society for the protection of life from fire the munificent donation of £20.

TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.—On Monday evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a girl aged 8 years, named Ellen Fay, residing in Byrne's-lane, off Potter's-alley, received serious injuries from her clothes taking fire while left alone in her parents' room. She ran at once into the street and met two men, named Andrew Moore and John Healy, who extinguished the fire as soon as possible. The child was then conveyed to Jervis-street Hospital, where she remained until her death, which took place yesterday morning.—Another child aged 2½ years, named Mary Flood, died in Stevens' Hospital, on yesterday morning, from the effects of burns received at the residence of her parents, in Grand Canal-place. It appears that the clothes of the child took fire accidentally during the temporary absence of her parents. An inquest will be held upon the bodies this day.

DEATH BY DROWNING—NEWRY, DEC. 17.—On this evening the body of a man named William Best, who had been missing since Thursday last, was found by the dragmen employed in searching the canal, where it was supposed the unfortunate deceased had accidentally fallen in since the day he was missed. The body was found in that part of the canal opposite the Heath Walk, and on information being given to the police authorities, it was conveyed to Monaghan-street, where the deceased had lived. Intelligence was at once conveyed to Joshua M. Magee, Esq., coroner for this district, for the purpose of holding an inquest. It is expected that gentleman will arrive here to-morrow (Tuesday) morning.—*From a Correspondent.*

FATAL ACCIDENT THROUGH CRINOLINE.—On Saturday morning last, about half-past nine, Mary Johnson, aged 25, wife of the engineman at the Shelton Bar iron Works, Hanley, went to the work, with her husband's breakfast. She was incautious enough to go near the rolling-wheel, and, while talking to her husband, her dress, rendered expansive by crinoline, was caught by the revolving wheel, and over which she was rapidly drawn, and in a few moments dashed literally to pieces, her remains, in mere fragments, being strewn about in all directions.

SERIOUS FIRES—FIRE ESCAPE SERVICES.—On Monday morning at an early hour a fire was discovered to be raging in the premises known as the Paris Hotel, situated at the corner of Leather-lane, Holborn. The fire, it is supposed, originated from a spark flying from a candle and falling upon some straw in the wine cellar, and had evidently been smouldering some time before discovered. An alarm having been given, the inmates made an attempt to descend by the staircase, but the heated smoke was so dense that the persons in the house were unable to descend, and by tying blankets and sheets together they were enabled to get upon the adjoining house in Leather-lane; but even there the smoke rolled over their heads and nearly prostrated them. Conductor Arkill, having arrived with the Royal Society's fire escape from Hatton-garden, at once placed his machine in front of the house, and four persons were brought down in safety. The brigade promptly arrived, but despite their efforts, fire could not be extinguished until the wine cellars and larders were burnt out, the diningroom on ground floor severely damaged by fire, and the upper part extensively damaged by heat and smoke. The sufferers were insured in the State and Times Fire Offices. The following certificate has been sent by one of the sufferers:—"I hereby certify that the conductor, by his quick arrival and care, saved my wife, child, and myself, and a gentleman living in my house.—THE MANOR." Another fire happened in the premises belonging to Mr. George Cox, mathematical instrument maker, No. 5, Barbican, Aldersgate-street. The fire commenced in the lower part of the house, but the smoke was so dense that Mr. Cox, jun., and Mrs. Cox, sen., were unable to descend by the stairs. Conductor Haskell arrived with the Aldersgate-street Royal Society's escape, and brought them from the second floor front, and Mrs. Cox. Several other persons managed to get down by the stairs, but they were nearly suffocated by the time the conductor arrived. Several other engines from other stations were remarkably soon in attendance, and the fire was confined to the lower part of the premises.—Another fire took place in the premises belonging to Mr. E. How, a corn chandler, 251, Wells-street, Upper-street, Islington, which was not extinguished until the stores and their valuable contents were nearly destroyed.

CAPTURE OF THE RUSHALL CLERICAL IMPOSTOR.—The Rev. William Simpson has been captured by the police. He was recognised in Leadenhall-street, Portsoken, by Inspector Wilson of the city police of the metropolitan force, who at once took him into custody upon the charge of having falsely impersonated a clergyman. He was on Tuesday brought before the Rev. J. H. Gale, of Milton, when a solicitor from the Treasury appeared against him by order of the Home Secretary. It appeared the accused, having falsely married a couple in Rushall Church, he not being in holy orders. He was asked whether he answered to the name of William Simpson or Edward Norman Carew? He denied, however, both of those names, but admitted that his right name was Edward Seymour Burch, which appears to be his correct cognomen. He was then informed of the charge brought against him, to which he made no reply; and the evidence of the parish clerk of Rushall was taken to prove the marriage of a party by the prisoner and his signature of the name of William Simpson to the parish register. Miss Ann White, the bride who had been married by the supposed clergyman, also identified him. This was deemed sufficient for a remand. The next charge alleged against him was, that he had married a couple at Linton, in the neighbourhood of Leeds. To appear to this charge, the Rev. T. C. Curties, of Linton, stated that the prisoner applied to him for temporary duty as an assistant curate, stating that he was at that very time curate of a parish in Devonshire, but that he had got another clergyman to take his place, whilst he went away for a short time for change of air. His story to Mr. Curties was, that he was an M.A. of Oriel College, Oxford, and that his name was Edward Norman Carew. Mr. Curties took the Rev Edward Norman Carew as his assistant curate, and for some little time he officiated for him, and married a couple in the parish church. After hearing this preliminary evidence, the prisoner was remanded until the next petty sessions at Pewsey.

SHOCKING SUICIDE.—On Monday an inquest was held by Mr. Brent, the deputy coroner, at the Edinburgh Castle, Caledonian-road, on the body of Mrs. Jane Swifion, whose death took place under the following remarkable circumstances. The deceased, who followed the vocation of monthly nurse, had lived with her married daughter for the last twelve years. She was last seen by her family about eleven o'clock on Thursday night in her usual good health and spirits, but it was remarked that she retired to bed with unusual alacrity. The following morning, when her granddaughter went with her breakfast in accordance with custom, she was unable to obtain admittance, and alarmed her father, the son-in-law of deceased, who being also unable to enter the room, and believing she was dead, or dying, at once sent for medical assistance. Mr. Robinson, surgeon, of Cumming-street, attended, and deposed on the inquest that on forcing the door he discovered the unfortunate deceased lying dead in her night dress upon the floor, horribly disembowelled. A frightful gash was in her abdomen, which she had evidently made by means of a penknife and a tableknife, and had further mangled and turn out with her hands internal parts of the body, pieces of which lay on the floor. The very remarkable nature of this horrible act induced the jury—although there were no concurrent circumstances proving aberration of mind—to come to an unanimous verdict that the wretched woman had committed suicide when in an unsound state of mind.

A DISTRESSING SHIPWRECK.—The following statement of the crew of the lugger Lively, of Margate, detailing the particulars of a very distressing shipwreck on the Kentish Knock sand on Friday last, and the rescue of our men, who, after four days' exposure and in the most exhausted condition, were saved from an appalling death, has been forwarded for the consideration of the National Lifeboat Institution. When the poor foreigners were landed on Margate pier on Friday night they presented a most heartrending sight, being more dead than alive, their swollen limbs and benumbed frames testifying to the great sufferings they had undergone during the previous four days. The master of the vessel has unhappily perished.—Statement of the crew of the lively lugger, of Margate, of seven hands, who declare—Being at sea on Friday morning, the 14th inst., in the vicinity of the Kentish Knock sand, at about daylight, we discovered a sunken wreck, with one mast standing, the wind being about E.S.E., blowing a little fresh, with a heavy swell. We, after trying with all sail to reach the wreck, found it impossible to get towards it, the tide being too strong; but, as we had neared it we fancied we discovered a flag on the masthead, which we took for a signal of distress, and seeing the dangerous situation of the crew, should they possibly have survived, in order to lose no time we got our boat out, fully manned her and proceeded rowing with all speed, towards the spot, which we reached with great difficulty, having been obliged to cross the sand in our skiff through a heavy surf. We found four of the crew on the sunken galliot Hillchina, from Hull for Bilbao, clinging to the top in a perishing condition (having been there since Tuesday night). We succeeded in getting them on board our boat and with all speed rowed back to the lugger, where, on reaching, we provided them with such refreshment as we had, and after getting them a little round we learnt that Captain Schwing had perished from his long exposure. We then made all sail and proceeded to Margate Harbour, where we arrived about half-passed 11 at night. (Signed by) Samuel Davis, William Davis, T. Pritchard, R. Robins, John Gilbert, R. Gilbert, J. Brockman.—Margate December 15."

TRIALS FOR MURDER AT LIVERPOOL.—At the Liverpool Assizes on Monday, Thomas Newnham, aged 38, was charged with the murder of his wife, in Rosner-street, Liverpool, on the 18th September last. It appeared from the evidence that the prisoner and his wife had lived together for some time on tolerably amicable terms; on the day of the occurrence in question there arose a quarrel between the parties, when the deceased, being drunk, was heard to use very improper language, which very much irritated her husband. In the course of the squabble the prisoner used a knife and stabbed his wife in the left side, the wound causing death. For the defence it was contended that there was no deliberate malice on the prisoner's part, and ultimately he was found guilty of manslaughter, and sentenced to penal servitude for life.—A Norwegian seaman, named Henry Lawson, was next tried for the murder of Charles P. Wallace, boatswain of the American ship Lombard. On the 22nd of August last, while the Lombard was lying in the Liverpool docks, the prisoner went to his berth and fetched for work. This led to a fight between the prisoner and the deceased, in the course of which the latter was stabbed by Lawson in the neck. The wound partially severed the windpipe, and the boatswain ultimately died on the 1st of September. The jury found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter, and his lordship (Mr. Justice Keating) sentenced him to penal servitude for life.

ATTEMPT TO MURDER A GAMEKEEPER.—One of the most deliberate and shocking attempts to murder a man which has come under our notice for some time, was committed on Saturday morning last near Sheffield. The victim in this case is William Crookes, a file-cutter, who lives in a lonely cottage in the centre of an extensive wood situated between the village of Ecclesfield and Thorpe Hesley, and which is about five or six miles from Sheffield. Crookes is also employed as assistant gamekeeper by John Jeffcock, Esq., of Coley Manor, and other gentlemen, and the cottage which he occupies is situated on the preserves which it is his duty to protect as assistant gamekeeper. The wood in which the cottage is situated is called Smithy Wood. There are no houses near to the cottage, and there are no public roads for a considerable distance. Crookes follows the trade of a file-cutter, and but little space been required for his occupation, he pursues his work at home. The block on which he cuts his files is placed close to the window in a room at the back of the house, and when at work he sits with his face towards the window, and only about a yard distant from it. On Saturday morning he rose about four o'clock, for the purpose of proceeding with his work, and about twenty minutes to five he sat down at his block and commenced cutting a new file. It was then quite dark, and he had therefore not opened the shutters of the window near which he was sitting, but had a lighted candle on the window sill. At the time he was thus employed, he was being watched through a crevice in the shutter, by a man without, and before he had made much progress with his file the contents of a gun were discharged at him through the shutter. The gun appears to have been heavily loaded, and the shot took effect on the right side of Crookes' face and on the right shoulder, knocking him off his seat and injuring him very severely, if not mortally. With great presence of mind, he opened his house door and unfastened his dogs, but he was unable to do more. His wife, on hearing the report of a gun, ran carried the tidings to her husband to know what was the matter. He replied, "I'm shot," and she, without further hesitation, and with a degree of courage highly creditable to her, ran for assistance. She called up Mr. Inspector Ashley, of Ecclesfield, and he, accompanied by Mr. Hawthorne, a surgeon, went with all haste to the scene of the outrage. Crookes was found lying on his bed groaning piteously. The right side of his face and his right shoulder were much shattered, and he was bleeding profusely. The shot had perforated the upper part of his waistcoat, completely tearing away about two inches of the cloth, and in passing through the shirt had left a dark border, as though it had been burnt. On examining the shutter it was found that the muzzle of the gun had been placed close against it. A hole about an inch in diameter had been driven through, and both on it and on the broken window were marks of gunpowder. The window through which the shot was fired is low, and the person who fired the shot must have knelt down; and from the position in which Crookes was sitting at work, there can be very little doubt that aim was taken at his chest. The police are making every exertion to discover the perpetrator of this fiendish crime. A man named Joseph Ibbotson, a collier, of Thorpe, has been taken into custody on the charge.

THE DERRY CELEBRATIONS.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

DERRY, MONDAY NIGHT.—To-morrow the "Apprent

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, DEC. 17.—The *Journal du Havre* mentions that as the Channel Islands are not included in the Anglo-French treaty, the Director-General of the French Customs has granted to the Jersey traders the privilege of importing their goods into France, subject to the same conditions as if they came from England.

An Imperial decree has just appeared increasing the rights of authors and composers of works which have appeared at the Opera. Formerly these rights decreased after forty representations, but now they are fixed permanently at 10%.

A new expedition is about to be despatched from Germany under the direction of Baron de Henglin to renew the search for Doctor Vogel, though it is feared there will not succeed in finding the doctor alive. Still hopes are entertained of ascertaining something certain and conclusive as to his fate, and, perhaps, securing his papers and manuscripts, which would be most valuable as the part of the country he explored has never been visited by any other European. Baron Henglin and his companions purpose searching the country between the Nile and Lake Tsad into the very centre of the non-explored part of Africa. Subscriptions are being raised all over Germany to defray the expenses of this expedition, which it is thought will be about 20,000 thalers.

The twentieth volume of Thiers' history has appeared. He originally intended breaking off at the abdication of Napoleon at Fontainbleau, but he now intends continuing to the battle of Waterloo. I wonder what version he will give us of that event.

A curious picture has just been purchased for the Louvre, for 13,500f.; it is by Hans Mesling. The subject is the Resurrection, and at each side there are, as it were, two shutters, on one of which is painted the Ascension, and on the other St. Sebastian the Martyr. When these shutters are closed, the centre picture is completely hidden from view.

I hear Baron Rothschild has purchased the Hotel d'Albe, in the Champs Elysees, which has been in the market since the death of the poor Duchess d'Albe.

As the season for *etrennes*, or, as they are called in English, Christmas boxes, approaches, the papers here are filled with advertisements from the different shops, pointing out how appropriate their particular articles are for gifts. I saw one to-day, which amused me particularly—it was that of a librarian, who offers Guillemons directory of political economy, as the most *recherché* present a friend can offer to another.

The long continuance of rain in the South of France has overflowed all the rivers, and flooded the country to a considerable distance. The *Messager de Midi* says that on Friday and Saturday the town of Villeneuve was so flooded, the inhabitants were obliged to take refuge in the upper storeys of their houses.

There is a farmer at Limagne who has long been the envy of his neighbours, owing to the unaccountable way in which his poultry latters, and those that live in the house, increase during summer and winter. At last the secret has been discovered, and as it has succeeded so well with him, perhaps your country readers would like to hear it also. The whole thing consists in a particular diet which he prepares in the following way:—He takes a measure of the hulls of flaxseed, which he puts to dry in a moderately warm oven, after which he throughs them like grain and puts them in a bucket of boiling water, and then adds a measure of bran and a measure of acorn flour, all of which he mixes together into a kind of paste. The good effect of this food on fowl is said to be surprising.

(FROM THE CORRESPONDENT OF THE GLOBE.)

PARIS, SUNDAY EVENING.—I don't attribute the new *brochure* recommending the sale of Venetia to any higher handicraft than its intrinsic cowardice suggest, though considerable importance is given it here. In it the whole of Louis Napoleon's acknowledged writings not one syllable of censure is discoverable passed on any act of the first Bonaparte (an Ottoman never hints that Mahomet could have done wrong); but here we have the Treaty of Campo Formio, by which that inseparable republic was bargained away in consideration of Austria recognising for the first time a republic in France, stigmatised as a swindle, which, indeed, it truly was. Citizen and General Bonaparte had his own object in this abrupt close of the war, fearing, with some reason, that his rival Moreau would reach Vienna before him.

It is curious to mark how all retrograde journals here and elsewhere wax angry at the very idea of this peaceful solution of the imbroglio, much like the Irish attorney's alarm on hearing that "a compromise has just broken out!" To keep Italy divided and weak is the main point with these philanthropists, and they are suddenly seized with a horror of parting with birthrights for filthy lucre, and so forth. *L'Union* is downright insolent, and compares Victor Emmanuel to Louis Napoleon to the two corporals of the Prætorian Guard Tacitus talks of, who for a round sum undertook to sell the Roman Empire. *Duo manipulares susceperunt imperium et perdiderunt*; *duo tubicines tulerunt*;—the slight difference being that one of these corporals replenishes not his own, but the Kaiser's empty pocket, by the transaction.

Le Siecle continues outspoken on the disastrous policy of keeping the French squadron off Gaeta, like a wolf in the manger. It aptly put the case by supposing Charles X. holding out at Toulon when shaken off by the whole country, and England helping him to keep his footing there by a fleet in the offing, while clerical and other emissaries availed themselves of this evil protectorate for sowing confusion in the south of France, and impeding all tranquility or settlement in the national territory. No terms could be too strong in reprobation of such a diabolical scheme of annoyance.

The decree in this morning's *Moniteur* abolishing passports in favour of British visiters to France, will strike a chord meant to vibrate harmoniously on your side of the Channel; especially when it is known that the Empress Eugenie has got the credit of hastening a long determined step, and that this is her acknowledgment of the cordiality she has met with from all classes of society while over the water. But it is also a blow to all the antiquated restrictions of Continental Europe, and its worn-out dynasties will truly infer that "a new comer has got among us."

It is to be hoped that Persigny will prosecute his studies while in London on the liberties of the British press, and recommend on his return the abolition of passports from the gangway under La Guerroniere for each English journal on admission into France, it being a daily subject of anxiety and annoyance here to every subscriber, whose paper undergoes examination by these Jacks in office, previous to delivery; and as I am on the topic, I may properly caution the managers of the *Illustrated News* in the matter of their annual Christmas extra number, which has such additional circulation at home as well as abroad. Last year, to my knowledge, a Paris newsvender, on fair speculation, invested his cash in an order for 80 copies more than his ordinary venture, but unluckily there was some paragram objected to by La Guerroniere's lot, and the whole issue was bagged by them (for their own perquisite), while the honest trader and his customers were victimised.

The Emperor has just nominated to four of the vacant see eminent clergymen in every respect, and not less so from being staunch Gallican divines. One of them, Abbe Ravinet, Vicar-General of Paris, was by the side of the late martyr Archbishop Affre, on the barricades, where he confronted death for peace sake, and Ravinet's hat was riddled by two musket balls. Napoleon III. has done his duty; I'io may do what suits him.

The Pope has issued, with the decorative crosses for the officers of the late Irish battalion, a kind of order of the day, in which he states what is not correct in a military sense—viz., that Lamoriciere's army was perfectly able to cope with that of the "Subalpine enemy" (*Subalpinus hostis*), had not the latter taken it by surprise and treachery. Among the decorated the by surprise and treachery. Among the decorated the Austrian officer O'Malmey (of Cork) is foremost, but Captain Howley, late of the 10th, and Captain O'Carrol, Captain Howley, late of the 10th, and Captain O'Carrol, Captain Howley, late of the 10th, and Captain O'Carrol, who was also in the British service, are both designedly passed over. The medal has a cross turned upside down, which has set soffiers perpetrating their usual sarcasms.

The following communication is dated Paris, Sunday, evening:—

It would be ungracious, as well as unfair, not to give the Emperor all the credit he deserves for the sensible step he has just taken in abolishing the passport nuisance between England and France. Henceforth the British traveller can travel from Cornhill to Cairo, the British traveller can travel from Cornhill to Cairo, the British traveller can travel from Cornhill to Cairo, without being in the slightest degree *vis* Marseilles, without being in the slightest degree *vis* Marseilles, without being in the slightest degree *vis* Marseilles, without being in the slightest degree molested by the request of that troublesome "certificate of origin." No longer will he miss the boat or the train whilst waiting for the indispensable *visa* and *permis d'embarquement*. The immunity, however, is to be confined to subjects of her Britannic Majesty. They will be enabled, not only to land at and sail from Boulogne, Calais, or Dieppe, and even Havre, but even to circulate throughout the territory of the Empire, a boon you will appreciate the more highly as French travellers *a l'interieur* do not enjoy it. Not indeed that the law is vigorously carried out with respect to them, but it is open to any capricious gensdarme to demand the passport of a French traveller as he alights from the train at Dieppe, or at any of the watering places. Two French gentlemen of my acquaintance were actually stopped by the gensdarmes at Verdun a few months ago, and had to telegraph to Paris for vouchers of their identity and respectability to be sent up before they were released. It is also remarked that gensdarmes, who are sometimes apt to be more zealous than intelligent, may, now that the mustache movement has become so general in England, be under some difficulty as to recognise British subjects, and that amusing mistakes may occur, unless the sensible step announced in to-day's *Moniteur* be but the prelude of announced in to-day's *Moniteur* be but the prelude of announced in to-day's *Moniteur* be but the prelude of the total abolition of the nuisance.

The Ministry of the Interior has been re-organised, but as an old French song says, "C'est pour changer toujours le meme." The heads of the various departments placed under M. de Persigny to control merely change the name of "Chef de Division," for that of "Directeur." The Prefect of Police is placed under the Minister of the Interior's supervision as "Director of General Safety." M. de la Guerroniere and his army of censors, instead of being disembodied and sent to the right about, as a few sanguine people expected, retains his hold upon "l'imprimerie et la librairie"—*i. e.*, all that is printed and published, including, of course, the newspapers. These changes affect but little room for remark, but the *Constitutionnel*, ever anxious to display its devotedness, thinks fit to congratulate the press on being transferred from the control of M. de la Guerroniere "Chef de Division," to the control of M. de la Guerroniere "Directeur." This "modification," M. Direolle tells us, must be understood by the press as a compliment, and then proceeds to deliver the tirade, the meaning of which the fulsome writer would be rather puzzled to explain:—

"After pointing out to political writers the dignified and noble part which they ought to perform, the Minister of the Interior thinks with reason that the press could not constitute an administrative service, properly so called. The press is not administered, it is guided and advised, but from its very nature, as an engine of free discussion, it escapes the regular action of the administration. Placed by the conditions of its material existence under the direction of printing and publishing, the press will naturally discover in that circumstance all the guarantees it ought to wish for. The direction prescribes at the same time the regulations which protect and serve the press, and also those which protect the public and the State against the press."

The elections at Nice are to take place over again, the Government candidate not having obtained a sufficient number of votes. It is said that the great majority of the "Nicois" voted for their countryman, Garibaldi, but that all those votes were of course annulled.

It is stated that England and France are about to interfere actively in order to induce King Francis to withdraw from Gaeta. The pluck of his defence has won for him much sympathy, even amongst staunch friends of the Italian cause, and one cannot but condemn the cowardly policy which would employ the forces of two such countries as England and France to crush the remnants of the Neapolitan army. Let France withdraw her fleet, let the Piedmontese continue the siege, and may the best man win. To interfere at this stage of the proceedings would reflect eternal disgrace on the Governments who would venture on such a step. It is to be trusted that the only intervention contemplated is diplomatic, but looking at the extraordinary combinations of French policy, and Lord John's peculiar notions about non-intervention, it is impossible to say there is no foundation for the report.

The *Courrier du Dimanche* asserts that—

"King Francis II. is not far from yielding to the counsels of the European Powers. A letter from Vienna states that a proposition of an armistice made by Piedmont was rejected by King Francis only because the representatives of Russia and Prussia only weakly supported the efforts of the Cabinets of London and Paris. France and England are, however, said to have succeeded in bringing over the two northern courts to their views, and that a collective application has been made to Kings Francis II. and Victor Emmanuel for the conclusion of an armistice. According to a letter we have received from London, a messenger from the French Government has by this time arrived at Gaeta, conveying to the King a peremptory recommendation to leave, as the French fleet could no longer afford protection to the place. The Emperor Napoleon would, however, give Francis II. ten days or a fortnight to make what arrangements he may think necessary before leaving, for his interests and for his dignity. The same letter adds, that on leaving Gaeta King Francis will not leave Italy, but proceed to Rome, where he may reorganise his army. Consequently, the position of the Piedmontese will continue to be extremely difficult."

A letter from Gaeta of the 9th, in the *Messager du Midi*, gives the latest news from the Neapolitan camp:—

"A bold *coup de main* was successfully executed two days ago by a detachment of the garrison, with the object being to blow up three houses at the entrance of the suburb, in possession of the Piedmontese. A party of 120 riflemen, under Major Dimonetti, started about two o'clock in the morning. The party was divided into three, the centre one being commanded by a Frenchman, Count de Christen. Viscount de Maricourt, also a French officer who lately belonged to the Sardinian army commanded another. They were followed by 12 artillerymen, without arms, carrying eight barrels of powder. The Piedsantesse, with their arms on the alert, challenged the band as they advanced. Captain de Christian answered in French, when one of the sentinels fired at but missed him. Other sentinels posted farther off fired, but the Neapolitans kept advancing. The artillerymen in the meantime had deposited the powder and applied the match, and just after the signal for retreat was given an explosion took place, and the houses were reduced to ruins."

During M. de Persigny's absence in London, M. Billault has resumed his old place at the Home Office, *ad interim*. The papers are rather uneasy, lest this ogre of the press should mark his transitory hold of office by devouring a fresh victim. Until M. de Persigny returns, the papers will take care to draw it mild.

I am informed that at the Tuileries two days ago, M. Mires, the contractor of the Turkish loan was received with such a tempest of hisses that he had to beat a precipitate retreat.

The pamphlet, "*L'Empereur Francois Joseph et l'Europe*," turns out a mere flash in the pan. It is said to have been written by M. Duveyrier and by M. Pereire, of the Credit Mobilier. M. Pereire would have no objection to undertake a loan with the guarantee of the Great Powers to be devoted to the purchase of Venetia. A *brochure* on the same subject by M. de la Guerroniere is still expected.

The following gratifying announcement appears in the *Moniteur*:—

"The Emperor has decided that from the 1st of January next the subjects of her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland coming to France shall be admitted to enter and to travel in the territory of the Empire without passports and reciprocally. The Minister of the Interior will give instructions to his agents to carry this measure into execution."

This announcement speaks for itself. It does infinite credit to the Emperor, whose published opinions on the passport system I have so often alluded to, and to the enlightened Minister by whose advice they are now carried into execution.

M. Emile Ollivier, one of the Deputies for Paris, has applied to the Minister of the Interior for permission to found a newspaper. His first application remaining unanswered, he has again addressed himself to the Minister; and, judging from the liberal tendencies of M. de Persigny, there can be little doubt that he will eventually be successful. The following is the second letter of M. Ollivier:—

"M. Le Ministre,—I had the honour some days ago to address a letter to you soliciting an authorisation to found a weekly newspaper. Not having received an answer, I fear that my letter has not reached you, and I ask your permission to repeat my demand.

"I will accept either of the following three names for my paper:—*La Liberte*, *La Suffrage Universal*, or *L'Electeur*.

"Yet, were I free to choose, I should prefer the first—namely, *La Liberte*.

"It is hardly necessary for me to add, M. le Ministre, that my newspaper will not have for its object to attack the State, and that it will be in conformity with the law and the constitution.—Receive, &c.,

"EMILE OLLIVIER."

M. Billault, the predecessor of M. de Persigny, not long ago declared that the more a newspaper respected the law and the constitution, the more legal, constitutional, and moderate it was, the more dangerous it would prove; and every penal turncoat echoed this strange *dictum*. M. de Persigny is of a different stamp. He will not think that respect for the law of the land and moderation in language are a positive disqualification; and he will, I have little doubt, allow M. Emile Ollivier to found his journal on the conditions he proposes.

NAPLES.

The following is dated Naples, Dec. 10:—

The Garibaldini are leaving daily by hundreds and thousands, and what report will they take away with them of their Neapolitan "brothers," as they call them? Why, that they have the cant term has been! cant term has been! cant term has been! talked till they were choked of "brotherhood," without performing any of its duties, and, instead of rushing out to aid or to welcome them, have, as a nation, assisted at a spectacle got up for their special amusement. Theatres have been illuminated, houses too, Garibaldi's Hymn has been sung, and his portrait worn by every one; all this is very cheap and noisy, but what has been the serious material aid which has been given by those frothy enthusiasts? I shall confine myself in my report to what I have seen or heard from substantial witnesses. In the first place, I am assured, on undoubted authority, that the number of Neapolitans who enrolled themselves under Garibaldi was under 100, and yet they talk of "our revolution." There were, I believe, many applications for commissions, but to serve as soldiers and enter into the serious business of war 100 presents themselves. So much for active field co-operation, and now for those services which might have been so easily rendered, and which would so materially had relieved the sufferings of the wearied sick and wounded men who had been fighting their battles. I am within bounds when I state that the municipality had made no arrangements for the reception of the Redjackets, or such as were most inadequate, and I know that fewer was generated, as a consequence and carried many men off. They lay on dirty straw, and would have been better in the open country; "but was not every house in Naples open to them?" "When we were in the North of Italy," said a sick man to me, "they came out *en masse* to us, men, women, and children, and offered us everything they had. Brescia, in particular, will never be forgotten by us; we were treated as sons and brothers; but here, ——" The following is the second letter of M. Garibaldi issued a decree threatening punishment to those who overreached his followers. To whom hid themselves and their carriages to avoid being summoned to carry off the sick and wounded; each in his little way made as much profit as he could out of those who had shed their blood and risked their lives for them. With regard to the hospitals, I may almost literally say that no preparations had been made for the sick until they arrived here, and then they had to be improvised and arranged; and this was done by foreign hands. As being hastily got up they were deficient in most of those comforts which are so necessary for the invalid, as being hastily got up in Naples, too, where native materials were necessarily called into use, filth, filching, and disorder were the order of the day. Those benevolent persons, principally foreigners, and those again principally English, who have regulated the hospitals, have had to contend continually and thanklessness against these evils. I saw, no usually and thanklessness against these evils. I saw, no later than three days since, the dirt on the ground of the wards in San Sebastian's baked" half-an-inch deep, hard dirt, while the attendants were washing pots and kettles and plates about the beds; that I may be the more precise, it was the fials Vittorio Emanuele. On leaving that *sala* I went to another, and listened to the whispered complaints of a poor fellow who had been shot through the lungs, that he had been robbed frequently, and had not that frequent attendance necessary, as the discharge of his wound was so great. "I give the poor fellows some money at times," said a lady to me, "because they are neglected if they do not give the *infermieri* something." "I was robbed by my *infermieri* of a plaster or two which Victor Emmanuel left to me," said the wounded boy; "get me into another more central place," and I did. I said the surveillance of the hospitals has been conducted principally, if not altogether, by foreigners; some honourable exceptions there have been, but still the rule holds good. English ladies have sacrificed their ease and time, and one has risked her life almost in the battlefield, while Neapolitans have for the most part remained at home at ease, apparently indifferent to the sufferings of their "brothers." "We will give our money," said some ladies to a friend of mine one day, "but we won't go in," and this makes me think of the sums of money that have been contributed by the Neapolitans. When dukes have put themselves down for 5*l.* 6*d.*, Ministers at the most, for a pound, and the vast majority of those whose voices were making the welkin ring with their sympathies and admiration of their "brothers" have not been ashamed to write themselves down for 4*d.*, 6*d.*, and 8*d.*—say for the "*ferite di Garibaldi*"—the sum contributed cannot have been great. What the gross amount is I cannot tell, but I have seen several published lists, and they have been formed in the way I have described, and I have no hesitation in saying that the foreigner has shown ten times the amount of substantial sympathy that the Neapolitan has shown. It is not the object of these remarks to vaunt the foreigner, but to awaken the Southern Italians to something like self-respect.

There is a report pretty generally believed that an armistic, at the intervention of the French Government, has been completed between the Bourbonites and the Sardinians for 15 days, during which time the preparations are not to be suspended. In this interval of time the Emperor will use his good offices to induce Francis II. to evacuate Gaeta; but, should he refuse to do so, then the French fleet will be withdrawn. Some are of opinion that the Bourbon will still resist. There are at present 15,000 men in Gaeta, with provisions for six months, or perhaps 6,000 men, and a great quantity of ammunition. Now, it may be the policy of Francis II. to drive off some 10,000 of his forces as he has already done; Cialdini, however, will not take prisoners, and it is just possible that as Francis II. may be compelled to yield by his own men.

The King, it is said, will leave Naples on the 18th, and, returning by the Abruzzi, will have some bear-hunting in Castelvetro. The Royal movements are, however, very uncertain, as we have already seen. At present, say some, will be followed by the arrival of Prince Carignan as Regent, Farini retaining his office of Lieutenant-General; while others maintain that Garibaldi will be invited as Lieutenant General with an *adlatus*. It is not likely that the Government would acknowledge its own weakness by taking such a step, or that Garibaldi would consent to take any office with a bear leader by his side. He will be faithful to his garden, and only reappear at the sound of the trumpet.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The subjoined letter is from a correspondent, dating Warsaw, Dec. 12:—

The capital of the ancient kingdom of Poland has enjoyed for the last three days the happiness of possessing within its walls the Russian colonel of gensdarmerie, Trepow, appointed by the Emperor chief of the general police in place of General Anitchkow, whose proceedings, under existing circumstances, and such as may arise hereafter, have not been considered at St. Petersburg as sufficiently active and severe. It may, therefore, be foreseen that his successor, Colonel Trepow, whose energetic character is well known in Russia, will make use, in a greater degree, of the spy system, which seven years extends its ramifications through the towns and all parts of the country in Poland. In any case we may be assured that the exceptional *regime* in vigour since 1832, and which is nothing other than the state of siege and martial law, will be more rigorously enforced than ever. It remains to be seen to what point this rigorous system, applied to a whole nation which says hours in mind for the former independence of its liberties, will conduct the Government of the Emperor at last.

What, according to all I learn, appears to be certain is, that Poland, taught by the unhappy experience which she gained under the Emperor Nicholas, will not allow herself, under Alexander II., to be dragged again into an isolated insurrection without being able to reckon on the powerful succour of neighbouring nations, who wait also for a favourable moment to rise *en masse* and reconquer, in the name of their nationality, their ancient independence and rights.

According to what is said here, Austrian Poland, particularly the ancient kingdom of Gallicia, which seems hitherto to have held herself aloof from joining the general movement which is disturbing men's minds in Europe, commences also to agitate for the recovery of her ancient national institutions, which formerly allowed her to govern herself by means of a communal and representative system independent and free from all ministerial control. The Gallicians have placed themselves in strict relation with their brothers and ancient companions in arms in unfortunate as well as in prosperous epochs of their common nationality. Both the Governments of Russia and Austria are interested in preventing any popular movement for enfranchisement which might at a given day simultaneously burst out in Gallicia and Poland. The Cabinets of Vienna and St. Petersburg comprehend all the danger which threatens from that quarter the authority of their respective Sovereigns, and can easily adopt measures in common by employing the military in sufficient force to put down any attempt at insurrection which may be made in the approaching spring in the Polish and Gallician provinces. In this motive is attributed the reinforcements of Russian troops which have recently been sent to the frontiers of the south and the fortress of Kalisch.

The Superior Administration at Warsaw has just published a list of foreign journals which may, after previously been submitted to the censure, be introduced to the Imperial post, dating from the 1st of January, into the kingdom of Poland. Among these foreign political and scientific journals we find 91 German, 19 Italian, 92 French and Belgian, and 27 English; but as these public papers are generally submitted before their distribution to the post-offices to the revision of the censure, all the articles they might contain not deemed to be in conformity with the principles of the Russian Government are carefully blackened over in such a manner as to render their perusal impossible.

THE IONIAN ISLANDS.

The last advices are dated Corfu, December 6th. The magnificent fleet under command of Vice-Admiral Martin, is anchored off Corfu. It is composed of the following ships:—The flagship Marlborough, 131 guns, 800-horse power; Admiral Martin; the Orion, 91 guns, 600-horse power, Captain Frere; the Exmouth, 90 guns, 600-horse power, Captain Paynter; the Neptune, 90 guns, 500-horse power, Campbell; the Mars, 80 guns, 400-horse power, Captain Strange; the James Watt, 91 guns, 600-horse power, Captain Codd; the London, 90 guns, 500-horse power, Captain Chads. The screw steam sloop Assurance, 4 guns, 200-horse power, Captain Aynsley, and the Alacrity, 4 guns, 300-horse power, Captain Baird, are in attendance, and plying alternately between Corfu and Malta.

The screw-frigate Melpomene, 51 guns, 600-horse power, Captain Ewart, left yesterday for Malta, having on board her Highness the widow of the late Prince of Montenegro. The Princess is on her way to visit the Empress of the French, by whom she has been graciously invited to spend some months at the Tuileries. Sir E. Bulwer Lytton, who has been staying here for the last two months, left for Italy last week, by a steamer of the Austrian Lloyd Company.

The winter has now regularly set in here, accompanied by the sudden changes which are its peculiar characteristics, alternating from the sharp, cutting north wind, which blows across the snow-capped mountains of Albania, to days of genial warmth and brilliant sunshine, interspersed with strong sirocco and showers of rain. Sportsmen take advantage of the former and repair in great numbers to Albania for the destruction of woodcocks, which promise to be very plentiful this year. Owing to the presence of the fleet they need well be so, as the navy system makes a very numerous appearance on the Albanian shore, to the great astonishment of its semi-barbarous inhabitants.

The little town of Corfu is so full of sailors and soldiers (they are 10,000) that its native population is quite in a minority, and, as you pass through the narrow lanes of the capital of this little Septinsular State, your ear is greeted by sounds more harsh and vernacular than either the Venetian Italian of the upper or the modern Greek *patois* of the lower orders.

THE WAR IN NEW ZEALAND.

The special correspondent of the *New Zealand Examiner* writes from New Plymouth, under date Oct. 11:—

Just as I was about sitting down to complain again of another month worse than wasted by the military authorities, news is brought in that hostilities have commenced at Kaihihi, a few miles south of Tataraimaka, which in a manner arrests the pen. On the 19th of September 600 men, after destroying the enemy's stockades at the latter place, proceeded on towards Kaihihi, where, finding the enemy in force, they retired upon Tataraimaka, and General Pratt was applied to for instructions. Reinforcements of men and of artillery were promised to Major Hutchins, the commanding officer; but the general suddenly altered his mind, and ordered the force back to town. On the 9th instant a second expedition, upwards of 1,000 strong, under the command of General Pratt, started for the same place; and this morning the Pah was attacked, the enemy nothing daunted (as might be expected by the repeated show of pusillanimity) by the formidable force of men and artillery, including an 8-inch gun, opposed to them. The casualties, as far as is yet known in town, are Captain Pasley, R.E. (Staff), wounded in the thigh, ball extracted; Sergeant Howatt, 70th, severely wounded in both thighs; Sergeant, 40th; 1 bugler, 65th; and J. Jones, 57th (Militia) wounded. It is not in my power to give a description of the contest, which will not be received in time for the mail steamer. A party of engineers, with fatigue parties from the various corps, with covering parties, were sent out to approach the pah by entrenched lines and traverses, and form a platform for the heavy gun, the position chosen for which would command the two other pahs in the neighbourhood. The smaller guns (24-pounders) were within 200 yards. The commenced the struggle, and beyond nothing is yet known. Her Majesty's ship Cordelia opportunely arrived from Auckland as the news was received, and Captain Vernon expressed his intention at once to proceed along the coast to render any aid to Captain Seymour of her Majesty's ship Pelorus, who is so far recovered from his wound received at Waitara to take part in the expedition. It will be remembered that both gallant officers commanded the naval brigade in Colonel Gold's expedition to Waroa. The natives engaged are the notorious Taranaki and Ngatiruanui; and it is to be hoped, now that the general has fired a shot, that he will not quit the district without inflicting the severest chastisement on these turbulent and aggressive people.

It is unfortunate for the prospects of the war that Gen. Pratt did not show equal determination to meet the enemy at Waitara on the 10th September. With a force of nearly 1,000 men the destruction of a few empty pahs seems exclusively to have occupied his mind, for whilst so engaged the rebels fired upon him, but provoked only a return fire to afford time to get back to quarters. But the most discreditable feature in this extraordinary affair was leaving the dead body of a 40th soldier in the hands of the enemy, who naturally claim a victory over the largest force that has been marshalled before them. Their own number could not have exceeded 120. The effect on the forces is still more to be deplored, for men naturally become dispirited in a contest in which the same fate may await themselves. The tenderest solicitude for the killed and wounded should be shown by those in command.

Our volunteers and militia abandoned at Waireka, guarded theirs at the risk of their lives, and, in a difficult night retreat, brought them away from the field.

But all these events of the month were exceeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Leslie's conduct on the 29th ultimo. Detached to destroy the rifle pits of the pahs burnt by General Pratt in the early part of the month, the enemy fired at them, but they were strictly enjoined not to fire on account of some order said to have been issued by the general. But it is idle to suppose that it could have been given, or that such an order could have been applied to the situation in which Colonel Leslie was placed. The result was that 500 men, well armed and protected by artillery, were hunted over two miles of an open country, most favourable for military operations, by less than a hundred natives, and were not till the men were falling, and the enemy getting dangerously near to the rear-guard, that the latter faced about and fired in disregard of the injunctions of their commanding officer.

NORTH ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH.

The following are the preliminary reports of the surveying expedition in the Fox, under the command of Captain Allen Young; which are prefaced by an interesting letter from Sir F. L. M'Clintock, to Sir Charles Bright. Detailed and final reports are now in course of preparation, and will shortly be made public.

I am also requested to call your attention to the enclosed interesting letter from Sir Leopold M'Clintock to Sir Charles Bright.—I am, &c.,

WM. BEVAN.

Old Jewry, December 17.

Portsmouth, Dec. 6, 1860.

My dear Sir Charles,—You are very welcome to my opinion respecting the North Atlantic Telegraph route; it has been formed solely upon what I have recently seen, and upon the local information I have gleaned, whilst employed in sounding and surveying along the projected route in command of her Majesty's steamer Bulldog.

As for the short lengths of cable between Scotland and Faroe, and from thence to the east shore of Iceland, no difficulties need be encountered; there are certain channels between the Faroe Isles where the tides are very strong, but there are also still water creeks, and these, I presume, will be selected for landing the shore-ends.

Like most of my countrymen, I was profoundly ignorant of the climatic condition of Iceland before I went there; and being desirous of obtaining authentic information respecting the ice movements in the adjacent seas, a scientific gentleman to whom I had an introduction kindly met my wishes by handing up for me such facts as I required from the celebrated "Icelandic Annals," which date back as far as the 9th century. Briefly, then, the shores of Iceland are only visited by drift ice about seven or eight times in each century, and it is only upon two or three of these occasions that the drift ice is sufficiently extensive to reach the south coast, and surround the whole island. Then the gales are never seen; the heavy masses of ice are so called are small enough to float freely over comparatively shallow water, so that a good channel remain undisturbed at the bottom, the shore end being carried up a fiord.

I trust that you will adhere to the original intention of a land line across Iceland to Faxe Bay, as by so doing you will avoid the only part of the sea where submarine volcanic disturbance may be suspected. Faxe Bay never freezes over, and I find no record of drift ice within it since the year 1600.

From here to the cable of Greenland will proceed. During the spring of the year South Greenland is usually enveloped with drift ice and icebergs, whilst the autumn it is for the most part free; it is, however, liable to be more obstructed throughout the whole year; the present, for instance, has been an extremely bad one, probably the worst for thirty years, and yet the Bulldog (paddle steamer), the Fox (screw), and the Danish sailing vessel have visited Julianshaab in September, October, and November.

My humble opinion is that in two years out of every three the ice will be too inconsiderable to obstruct the laying down of a cable during the autumnal months, whilst in my official report to the hydrographer of the navy I have expressed a confident opinion that the shore end may be carried into a fiord where it will be secure from icebergs or drift ice.

It only remains for me to notice Labrador. The landing-place for a shore end there has yet to be sought for. The interior, I was told, would present no difficulty whatever for a land line.

The contour of the sea bottom and depth of the ocean throughout the route is decidedly favourable, and here let me inform you that my report is misquoted in the *Times* of Friday last, the writer stating that I mention the soundings in one part as being "very irregular," whereas I reported them as "very regular."

You cannot have failed to derive much encouragement from the explorations of the Bulldog and Fox.

There are difficulties, of course, in so great an undertaking, but they are not by any means insurmountable. To me it will always prove a source of real gratification to have been actively employed in the advancement of an object of such vast national importance.

Should you desire it, I will be happy to explain to you in detail my grounds for every opinion, and authority for every fact which I have stated.—I am, dear Sir Charles, faithfully yours,

F. LEOPOLD M'CLINTOCK.

To Sir Charles Bright, &c.

Steam Surveying Yacht Fox, Southampton, Nov. 28, 1860.

Sir,—I beg to report the arrival of the Fox in Southampton Docks, at 4 p.m. yesterday, and as my last communication with you was from Iceland, I now hand you a preliminary sketch of our proceedings and report of survey, combined from the observations of both Mr. Davis and myself since leaving Reikavik.

Having rated chronometers and swung ship for local deviation of compasses, we left Reikavik August 31, and on following day were in position off the headland of Snoefells Jokul, in north-west extreme of Faxe Bay. I had then intended making a course so as to strike the coast of Greenland in the same parallel of latitude, and carry the survey from that point down the coast to Cape Farewell. Our object being to examine the inlets and outlets upon the coasts, we did not delay for the purpose of deep sounding, but took advantage of every opportunity to obtain a cast and bottom specimens. At a distance from the land of 160 miles, in a direction S. 57 deg. W. from Snoefell Nass, we obtained soundings of from 175 deepening to 1,100 fathoms, the bottom being mud, specimens of which, and of the water brought up by Six's thermometer cases, were on all occasions preserved.

A series of gales with heavy sea now drove us from the desired course, and precluded us during the following days from making observations on the depth of the ocean. During these days every care was taken to ascertain the set of the Polar current, but by which we were not sensibly affected. In these gales we lost a portion of our bulwarks, stanchions, and deck gear, and although two of our men were seriously hurt we fortunately lost no lives.

Our next opportunity for deep sea sounding was on approaching the east coast of Greenland, when at 130 miles N., 75 deg. E. from Cape Bille, we got bottom in 1,135 fathoms; and again 1,052 fathoms, with good specimens of mud, at a distance of 63 miles; we then carried in soundings to 170 fathoms ten miles from the land, Cape Bille bearing N. 40 deg. W.

We had previously passed through some light streams of drift ice, and on this day, Sept. 12, I filled up fresh water from a floe-piece, and then approached the land, the ice being close and heavy under the land; and in the evening, being surrounded with loose pieces, I kept away to southward along the shore until daylight, when I stood in to about three miles off the high island called by the natives Ourenarsuk. Some of the closely-packed ice lay here along the coast, the easterly wind keeping it upon the land; and seeing no opening to enable us to get in at that time, with no prospect of an off-shore wind to disperse it, I continued following the trend of the land, and looking for an open harbour. Views of the land, angles, and observations for fixing positions, &c., were obtained as we coasted along.

A dark water-sky off Eindenoer fiord led me to hope that I should there be able to obtain anchorage; but in the afternoon of September 13 the wind freshened from S.S.W., and the weather began to threaten a repetition of the violent gales we had already experienced, and to bring back fresh ice from about Cape Farewell; and as the floe-pieces were very close around the ship, and I saw no prospect of reaching a harbour on that evening, I had no alternative but to stand off for the night to the south-eastward. Two Polar bears were seen on this day, and one of which I shot.

On the 14th we were in lat. 60 N., lon. 40.10 W., 60 miles east from the entrance to Prins Christian Sound, having been led off by the trend of the ice, which now gave us the first indications of an unusually great accumulation around Cape Farewell, and which drove rapidly back to north-east before the wind. We here obtained soundings in 1,120 fathoms, gravel and sand; and again on 16th Cape Farewell, bearing N, 56 W., 75 miles, 1,280 fathoms, muddy sand.

From this date commenced a series of most violent gales, which blew without intermission until the evening of the 19th, and during which time I had on several occasions penetrated the ice, in order to ascertain if in the coast was sufficiently free to admit of our carrying on surveying operations in the southern fiords; and on the evening of the 21st of September we moored to an iceberg for the night, we then being 36 miles S., 29 deg. W., from Cape Thorvaldsen on Desolation Island, having worked through some streams of ice; and we took this opportunity of sounding. We got an unexpected depth of 1,550 fathoms, but unfortunately lost the bottom specimen from the line fouling the ship's keel, and breaking at 300 fathoms in heaving in.

From the absence of ice in shore we had intended, with daylight, entering the Torsukatak Channel, and proceeding within the islands to Julianehaab and southern fiords, but after midnight a furious hurricane from S.S.E. suddenly burst upon us, tearing us from the berg, and compelling us to scud before the wind and through the openings in the ice, which now fast accumulated again from the southward. A detailed account of this hurricane will be given hereafter; suffice it to say that; after having frequently struck the ice, got the water over our machinery, and engines consequently stopped, stormsail split, and upper works damaged, we were, by the mercy of God's providence, saved from destruction.

The northerly currents and continuance of stormy weather prevented our reaching Frederickshaab until October 2, to which harbour I was obliged to go to repair damage, refit, and obtain fresh water. After seeing to the necessary repairs, I organised a boat expedition to southward, to examine the coast, and to ascertain if free from ice, which had hitherto constantly streamed northward along the land. Davis, Rae, Shaffner, Zeilau, and Woods accompanied me.

Having reached a good position southward, and there finding that the ice-reward had almost dispersed, I immediately returned, with the view at once to proceed on our voyage with the ship. We sailed from Frederickshaab on the 20th of October, with strong northerly gale, and on following day passed through the Issakatak Channel, reaching Julianehaab on the 22nd, and on ascending the neighbouring hills, from the height of 1,000 feet, not a piece of drift oceanic ice was to be seen around the coast.

Having made all inquiries about Igalliko (Julianehaab) fiord, I deemed it advisable at once to commence survey of this beautiful arm of the sea, and acting upon the opinion of Colonel Shaffner, that were this fiord found practicable the electric circuit from Reikavik would not be too extended.

We first sounded up to the head of the fiord, which gave an opportunity for leading a travelling party, under command of Dr. Rae, to examine the inland ice and nature of the country. A party also went to the Old Nordisker ruins at Igalliko.

Returning with the Fox to Julianehaab, Oct 27, we then surveyed the estuary of the fiord, and from the soundings obtained I am of a decided opinion that a depth of not less than 150 to 160 fathoms can be carried from the middle of the fiord, abreast the settlement, out to sea, with a general muddy bottom. A depth of water will effectually preclude injury to the cable from the largest icebergs ever seen upon the coast.

Although many bergs lay along the coast we saw none aground in this valley